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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 160 | SATURDAY - SUNDAY JULY 7-8, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com 50¢

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Attorney General Eric Holder to visit Guam. PAGE 5

House approves POB initiative

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Lawmakers working against clock to place HLI 17-5 on ballot

With only four months left before the Nov. 6 elections, the House of Representatives passed yesterday afternoon a 15-month-old legislative initiative that could pave the way for floating millions of dollars in bonds to help pay the government's outstanding debt to the beleaguered NMI Retirement Fund, now at over $320 million in unpaid employer contributions and interest.

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House resolution caps 2013 budget at $114M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

By a vote of 14-0, the House of Representatives adopted yesterday a concurrent resolution capping the fiscal year 2013 budget at $114 million based on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's revised budget submission.

House Concurrent Resolution 17-5, House Draft 1, now goes to the Senate.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said yesterday that the Senate's priority during its special session on Monday is adoption of the concurrent resolution.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), author of HCR 17-5, offered an amendment to the resolution to add $410 to the Department of Public Lands' projected revenue for fiscal year 2013.

Fiscal year 2013 is from Oct. 1, 2012, to Sept. 30, 2013.

The governor revised his 2013's

See $114M on Page 4

Judiciary pays tribute to 'remarkable man, leader in justice'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Judiciary, joined by colleagues at the federal and Guam courts, paid tribute yesterday to the late former chief justice Miguel S. Demapan during a memorial service held at the Commonwealth Supreme Court.

The emotional yet solemn ceremony was attended by all judges and justices, along with courts' staff. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and Guam Superior Court

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, consoles Frances T. Demapan, the wife of the late former CNMI chief justice Miguel S. Demapan, during a memorial ceremony for the former chief justice at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe yesterday. Demapan, instrumental in the vast improvements undertaken by the CNMI Judiciary, passed away on June 30 at the age of 59 and will be laid to rest on Monday.

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Do you intend to watch this year's Liberation Day parade?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Rihanna sues her former accountants for millions of dollars in losses.
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Local

Salvation Army adds one day to soup kitchen operation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Salvation Army's soup kitchen will add a day of meal service starting next week to accommodate its increasing number of clients.

Ministry leader Wayne Gillespie disclosed this after receiving a $42,500 donation from Bank of Hawaii yesterday.

Gillespie said the soup kitchen currently serves free lunch meals every Saturday from 11am to 1pm. Starting next week, the kitchen will expand its meal service to Friday so more people can come in during the two-day operation.

The soup kitchen is located on the ground floor of the building across Hopwood Jr. High School in Chalan Piao.

"I am very pleased to announce that beginning next Friday we're going to open up the soup kitchen for an additional day of operation. This is a result of this generous donation we received from BOH," Gillespie told *Saipan Tribune* during the donation rites at the bank's main office yesterday.

According to BOH senior vice president John Sheather, the bank has a strong relationship with the Salvation Army for many years, particularly in Hawaii. Ever since it expanded to Saipan, Sheather said that BOH has been consistently making donations to help the Salvation Army enhance its programs such as the soup kitchen.

A couple of years ago, BOH also donated $75,000 to the Salvation Army. He said BOH is more than pleased to again provide additional help to the nonprofit organization.

The soup kitchen operation survives through donations and grants. With the BOH donation, Gillespie estimates that a couple of hundred more clients may be served by the soup kitchen in the coming months.

MONETH G. DEPOSA
CNMI Salvation Army ministry leader Wayne Gillespie, left, receives from Bank of Hawaii senior vice president John Sheather, second from left, the bank's donation of $42,500 yesterday for the non-profit organization's soup kitchen program. Starting next week, the soup kitchen will expand its free meal service to two days, Friday and Saturday, from 11am to 1pm each day.

Gillespie said the number of clients they serve every week varies. There are times when they serve an average of 60, there are times when it's a bit less, but he noted some instances when they served over 300 clients in the past.

Besides BOH, the soup kitchen is also generously supported by businesses like Dickerson & Quinn, Foremost, and Triple J Super Fresh Market, other agencies, and other donors who want to remain anonymous, according to Gillespie.

He said that every Saturday, they receive food donations from companies like Hyatt Regency Saipan and Ebisuya Bakery. These food donations, he said, are important contribution to meals that they serve each Saturday. The soup kitchen, he said, also has about 15 volunteers each week.

Gillespie said they are planning a major fundraising activity to build up their support base in the CNMI.

The soup kitchen has been in existence for 14 months now.

One last push to place Saipan casino question on the ballot

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

This weekend could make or break a Saipan casino signature drive, with its proponents making their last push to urge voters to sign the petition, which is set for submission to the Office of the Attorney General on Monday.

Dr. Jack Angello, one of the proponents of the casino petition, said yesterday that he would be at the today's Sabalu Market in Susupe starting at 9am to continue to gather signatures for the casino petition.

Signing the petition does not mean that a voter supports or opposes legalizing casino gaming on Saipan. It only means that a voter agrees to place the question on the ballot, for voters to decide during the Nov. 6 midterm elections.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in a separate interview yesterday, encouraged people to sign the petition so that it can be placed on the ballot.

"I don't have any problem with the petition because that's only to put it on the ballot. It will never get to the ballot unless there's enough signatures. And you'll never know unless it gets to the ballot," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe.

Inos said placing the casino question on the ballot will put an end to "speculation that the people have spoken."

"They might have changed their mind and so forth because of circumstance. Again, this signature is not a vote on the casino, it's only to put the question on the ballot for people to vote on in November," he added.

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) said Saipan casinos won't result in "immediate" cash infusion to the CNMI economy the way Saipan Air could have done, but Saipan casinos could generate new money that the CNMI does not currently have.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) also said he hopes more people will now support legalizing casinos on Saipan because it is a "viable source of revenue."

Casino proponents need to gather 2,590 signatures to place the Saipan casino question on the ballot.

The 2,590 signatures represent 20 percent of the 12,948 registered voters on Saipan.

As of mid-June, the signatures gathered and submitted to OAG totaled only 497-way below the required 2,590.

Lawmakers urged to junk proposed pension obligation bond

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Several CNMI retirees are urging the Legislature to junk House Legislative Initiative 17-5, which proposes the flotation of a pension obligation bond to help the NMI Retirement Fund.

In a message to lawmakers and Fund officials, retiree Angelyn Sills expressed opposition to the bill, citing its negative impact not only on retirees but to the Commonwealth in general.

The House passed the legislation yesterday and it will now go to the Senate for action.

Sills, whose message was posted in the CNMI Retirees' Blog since Thursday, said that lawmakers should consider several issues prior to taking a vote on the legislation.

"Please do not vote to support a constitutional change. Do not vote for HLI 17-5, I implore you. As a retiree with a direct interest in the health of the CNMI Retirement Fund, and as a concerned citizen with a direct interest in the long-term success of fiscal and fiduciary activities and responsibilities in the CNMI and in the NMI Legislature, I am opposed to HLI 17-5, a proposal for a constitutional change to allow pension obligation bonds," she stated.

Sills believes the bond flotation as a solution to the Fund mess will actually worsen fiscal problems for the CNMI and the Fund.

"There is not any identified reasonable and clear means of funding such a POB. You should not obligate the government without explaining how this additional unfunded liability will be repaid. How will you repay this?" she asked.

According to her, "it is seriously unwise and irresponsible to say that this action would be exempt from Article 4 which was put in place to prevent such unwise and fiscally irresponsible action."

Sills told lawmakers that they have sworn to uphold the Constitution, "not to play with it."

"Instituting changes in the Constitution now means that the very serious consequences of your action will have to be dealt with by future governors and legislators and citizens, and you will be to blame for supporting this unwise and irresponsible act," she added.

For Sills, re-introducing the POB, which was defeated or ignored in a previous election, does not necessarily mean insufficient publicity. The real explanation, she said, is probably that voters did not approve of the plan.

According to her, more publicity means an attempt to push an idea to the public that is not responsible and is not sensible.

Besides Sills, other retirees have also spoken out against the proposed POB in postings and reactions on the retirees' blog.

Pacific ministers back regional cultural strategy

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—Pacific ministers of culture on Wednesday endorsed a regional strategy to further enhance the development of the Pacific's cultural sector.

Designed by the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture with support from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Pacific Regional Cultural Strategy, titled *Investing in Pacific Cultures 2010–2020*, aims to strengthen Pacific cultures by providing a regional framework for policy formulation and development, including the integration of culture into national development plans.

It was developed in response to issues raised during the first ministers of culture meeting in Noumea, New Caledonia in 2002, which highlighted the need for proper management and development of the cultural sector in the Pacific.

The issues raised included a need to develop national legislation, statistics and protection mechanisms for culture and heritage; promote cultural industries; and enlist greater government and donor partner support.

The development of the Pacific Regional Cultural Strategy engaged wide stakeholder consultations, and the strategy consists of a number of national and regional goals.

It works to strengthen the cultural sector at a regional level; develop cultural standard setting tools; and address objective 11.1 of the Pacific Plan, which is *"Recognized and protected cultural values, identities and traditional knowledge."*

The ministers also endorsed the Pacific Culture and Education Strategy, which gives guidance at the regional and national levels for greater inclusion of culture in all types of education (formal and informal) and at all levels, including tertiary.

The Pacific Culture and Education Strategy was also developed by CPAC in wide consultation with regional and national partners.

The gathering, held during the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts in Honiara, Solomon Islands, marked the second time that the Pacific ministers of culture have met to discuss and address key issues facing the cultural sector in the region. ***(SPC)***

Outstanding nurses for 2012 named

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Commonwealth Health Center nursing director Leticia Reyes, seated third from left, joins some of this year's outstanding nursing nominees and awardees who were recently awarded plaques and certificates during the traditional Nurses Ball at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The weeklong celebration for all nurses in the Commonwealth marked another historic success with the recognition of outstanding nursing employees, both at the public hospital and in private clinics on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

CNMI Nurses Week was celebrated on June 17 to 23 in honor of the contributions of nurses in the delivery of quality healthcare in the Commonwealth. Among the highlights of the celebration were the traditional Mass, continuing educational sessions, and special lunch gatherings, capped by the annual Nurses' Ball at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

According to CNMI Nursing Association president Rowena Alturas, the Nurses' Ball was attended by an estimated 250 individuals, including Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta, Nursing director Leticia Reyes, corporation board members, health officials, some lawmakers, and employees.

Outstanding nursing employees for 2012 were recognized that night.

The association and corporation officials presented its best unit manager award to Karlo Reyes III of the Hemodialysis Unit and Nieves Nekaifes of the Intensive Care Unit.

Hailed as 2012's best staff nurse was Vivian Concepcion of the Medical Surgery Department while the best nursing assistant award went to Daisy Cabrera.

The prestigious best nursing supervisor award went to Gayline Blau, while the pediatric and ICU units were selected as this year's best departments.

Regina Quiming and Hazel Lanteja were respectively hailed as the best nurses at the Rota and Tinian health centers.

Nine other outstanding nurses were selected from the private and home care clinics. They included Selma Salas from Saipan Health Clinic; Barbette Lopez from Saipan Health Clinic St. Jude; Soh Kwon from Marianas Medical Center; Jenifer Bahatan from Kaiser Home Health Center; Helen Hee from Hardt Eye Clinic; Lucy Pangelinan from FHP Health Center; Renea Raho from Marianas Associates of the Pacific; Irish Luzana from Marianas Home Services; and Resty Corotan from Pacific Medical Center.

All nominees for each category were given certificates of recognition.

In her message, Alturas expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the hardworking nursing workforce on the three islands for continuously providing quality service to patients. She also acknowledged the commitment and hard work of partners in private clinics.

The nurses' ball was coordinated by Ernie Molina and was emceed by Ulysses Sabuco.

Traveler dies during Guam airport stopover

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—An elderly man traveling from Hong Kong to Honolulu died during a stop in Guam.

Guam International Airport officials say the traveler had a heart attack Tuesday and that rescue personnel tried to revive him.

Police say he arrived on a United Airlines flight.

United spokesman Koji Nagata tells *Pacific Daily News* the man was taken to a local hospital.

Guam Memorial Hospital Nursing Supervisor Cely Mangrobang says the 69-year-old man was dead upon arrival.

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Man to plead guilty to child porn production

A 41-year-old man facing charges in federal court of possessing a cellular phone that contained images of children that included one image of the genitals of a boy has expressed his intent to plead guilty.

Rogelio N. Dela Cruz, through court-appointed counsel F. Matthew Smith, reached an agreement with the U.S. government to schedule a change of plea hearing.

Dela Cruz and the prosecution asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to vacate the jury trial scheduled for Monday, July 9.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Thursday granted the request.

The indictment charged Dela Cruz with one count of production of child pornography.

According to the indictment, between March 1, 2010 and March 18, 2011, Dela Cruz coerced a boy to "engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct."

Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Haejun Park stated in his affidavit that, on March 18, 2011, police arrested Dela Cruz on Rota for various charges related to possible sexual assault of a girl.

Park said the officer observed that Dela Cruz's cell phone contained several images of young children and an image of a boy's genitals.

The FBI obtained a federal warrant to search the defendant's cell phone last April 20 where several images of young children and the image of a boy's penis were found. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the soon-to-be Mr. and Mrs. Roy and Jasmine Kaipat! They will be wed on July 13, 2012. Enjoy your last weekend before becoming newlyweds! We love you! Greetings come from Randall Pangelinan, Masga fambams, family, and friends. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy anniversary to Leonard Camacho and Virginia Castro and a birthday shoutout to Leonard, who will be celebrating his birthday on July 8. We love you! Greetings coming from your family, Virginia, Destiny, and Candy. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 2nd birthday to Sage Jerome Lizama Santos! We wish you happiness and good times on your special day with more to come. We love you, Ninja Warrior! Greetings come from Craig and Tinie Calvo. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 7th birthday to Kiana C. Camacho! Wishing you many more blessing to come. We love you! Greetings come from Dad, Mom, Boy, and Alana. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JUDICIARY

From Page 1

Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos joined Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Cabinet members, lawmakers, and retired justices and judges at the service.

Lawyers, community leaders, and friends also came to the jampacked courtroom to express their condolences to the late chief justice's wife, Frances, their five children—Mike, Patrick, Frannie, Soli and Michaela—and Demapan's siblings.

Federal, local, and visiting public officials also presented condolence gifts to Demapan's family.

Associate Justice John A. Manglona said that Demapan's dedication to justice cannot be overstated.

"He was a selfless, remarkable man. The Court over which he presided and our islands which he served were improved and enriched by his life of service, and the Judiciary and the Commonwealth will not be the same without him," Manglona said.

In deciding cases, Manglona said, there was never a moment in the discussion where Demapan was offended by the different viewpoints or positions they took.

"There was genuine respect in how each one of us interpreted the law. In his heart and mind Chief Justice Demapan always strove to do justice—to do what is right for the people of the Commonwealth," Manglona said.

Manglona, Demapan, and associate justice Alexandro Castro worked together for over 11 years at the Supreme Court, making them the longest serving panel in the Commonwealth Judiciary's history.

Manglona said his relationship with Demapan and Castro was always that of mutual friendliness and respect, both in and out of the courtroom.

"Chief Justice Demapan was not autocratic. He always listened, and I never saw him show inattention. We treated each other with great respect and we all shared our views with candor," he added.

For Associate Justice Castro, Demapan was not only a dedicated public servant but also a family-oriented individual.

Castro said between the two of them, they simply called each other "Par," short for the Chamorro word *kompaire*." Castro and his wife are godparents of Michaela, one of Demapan and Frances' children.

Castro said they talked about the possibility of opening a private practice at the end of their initial term. Before their initial term expired, however, Castro said his *Par* told him he was going to run for retention and serve another term on the bench.

When Castro reminded him of their plan to go back to private practice, Demapan replied, "I must give back to the community for the scholarship I was awarded while in college."

Castro said that Demapan was a true guardian of the rule of law until the day his health prevented him from continuing. "I am extremely proud to have worked under him," Castro added.

Retired chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz said that Demapan's lasting legacy was the pivotal role he played in strengthening the rule of law in the Commonwealth.

"He ably led the CNMI Judiciary for so many years in shaping the rule of law in the CNMI for years to come. It is this legacy—a legacy of justice and fairness—that we can all truly be proud of," Dela Cruz said.

The retired chief justice said that Demapan served the Commonwealth with distinction and honor on the bench—as a trial judge and, later, as an appellate jurist.

"His unbending resolve to dispense justice fairly, impartially, and without fear of public criticism has always guided him on and off the bench," Dela Cruz said.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja said that Demapan will be sorely missed and joyfully be remembered.

"A simple man you are, yet your visions and policies now in place provide the foundation as well as the course and direction for this Judiciary to continue to advance," Naraja said.

"As a leader in justice, an inspiration for the community, a beloved friend, a caring husband, and a giving father. Our warmest thoughts and prayers be with you. We bid you farewell *yan adios*," Naraja said.

Demapan, who had undergone surgeries for colon cancer, passed away last Saturday, June 30, at the Commonwealth Health Center. He was 59.

Demapan served as the third chief justice of the CNMI Supreme Court.

He will be buried on Monday, July 9, at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery, immediately after a Mass at 11am at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

$114M

From Page 1

$102 million budget to $114.32 million on Monday.

Amid lingering doubts on the $12-million increase on an election year, the Department of Finance said the additional projected revenue is a "conservative" figure that still does not include much of the possible impact of the ongoing "aggressive" tax collection efforts.

Under the concurrent resolution, the total identified budgetary resources for 2013 is $133.641 million. Of this amount, $114.320 million is available for appropriation, which brings back to the appropriation levels of over 20 years ago.

HOUSE

From Page 1

"We are working against the clock here," House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* after the session.

Any initiative has to be with the Commonwealth Election Commission by Aug. 8 in order to make it to the Nov. 6 midterm elections.

If House Legislative Initiative 17-5 also passes the Senate next week, then the pension obligation bond initiative will be placed on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Deleon Guerrero said he's grateful for the House's passage of the initiative and hopes that the Senate will also favorably act on it at the earliest possible time.

He said the House passage of the initiative is just one of the many steps that need to be taken to "correct the wrongs" made to the Fund, retirees, and active members for years.

HLI 17-5 seeks to add a new Section 10 to Article 10 of the NMI Constitution to authorize the CNMI to issue pension obligation bonds.

How they voted

Of the 15 of 20 House members present in yesterday's session, only Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) voted against the pension obligation bond initiative.

"Just like what Rep. [Ray] Basa said, I don't want to mortgage the future generations, the young people, into paying for it. Where will the government get the money? Can we afford the interest rate? And even one of the consultants of the Retirement Fund advised against a pension obligation bond," Villagomez said later.

The 14 who voted "yes" to HLI 17-5, in order of voting, were, Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), acting Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan).

Five members were absent during the session, and most of them were off island.

Basa said if the POB initiative passes the Legislature, it could mean 30 to 50 years of obligations.

"The young ones will be the one to pay for it," he said.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez said the Fund supports the pension obligation bond initiative, and hopes that it will be placed on the ballot. Villagomez attended the House session.

Larry Cabrera, chairman of the Commonwealth Retirees Association, testified in favor of a pension obligation bond initiative during the public comment period of the House session.

"The government has defaulted on its obligations to the Fund. …The pension obligation bond will be able to give the government the ability to pay that obligation. But passing the POB doesn't necessarily mean we're having $300 million tomorrow. It has to be prepared and sold to the market," Cabrera told House members. He said the success of the process also depends on the underwriter hired.

RELATED NEWS
Lawmakers urged to junk proposed pension obligation bond.
PAGE 3

Cabrera urged lawmakers to pass the initiative now "so we can get the ball rolling." He said he remains "optimistic" about the initiative.

The CRA chair also reiterated that the government should not abolish the Fund's defined benefit plan and instead should strengthen it.

All eyes on Senate

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) called for special Senate sessions on Monday and Wednesday. There's no telling yet whether the POB initiative will be acted on.

So far, Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) is the only one with a definitive "yes" vote should HLI 17-5 is taken up by the Senate either on Monday or Wednesday.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) separately said they have yet to see the initiative that the House passed.

Deleon Guerrero introduced HLI 17-5 in April 2011. The House didn't make any changes to the initiative.

Educational campaign

A similar pension obligation bond legislative initiative was rejected when it was placed on the ballot in November 2010, but its proponents, including Deleon Guerrero, said that that was because of the lack of public education.

Deleon Guerrero said the sooner the POB initiative is submitted to the Election Commission, the better for the educational campaign.

In the 2010 elections, 11,436 total registered voters participated in the voting process for HLI 17-1, HS1, the POB initiative.

Only 4,200 voted to ratify the POB initiative, while 5,611 voted against it. A total of 1,599 voters left their ballots blank with respect to the initiative.

Deleon Guerrero said there was insufficient time to fully educate voters at the time about the mechanics of the POB initiative and its benefits to the Fund's defined benefit plan members.

"As such, a reintroduction of this initiative is proper and beneficial so as to provide our voters another opportunity to be more educated about pension obligation bonds and to participate in [the] process of sustaining the retirement fund program," the new initiative says.

Deleon Guerrero hopes the CRA, as well as lawmakers who support the initiative, will do their part in educating the public about the POB initiative.

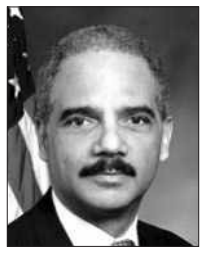
"I will also go out and help educate the public about it. There are still people who have concerns about it, or are still objecting to it but I haven't heard anything substantive. I have been telling them that there are still a lot of factors to consider. If it's determined for example that our ability to float bond is limited to $100 million, then that's the only amount we can float. We have to find different ways to salvage the solvency of the Retirement Fund," he said.

Deleon Guerrero also said this unfunded liability was committed by the administration and the Legislature—past and present—and the POB initiative is an opportunity to correct those wrongs.

Because of its mounting financial problems, the Fund filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, the first public pension agency on American soil to seek bankruptcy protection. But a federal judge said he will dismiss the Fund's bankruptcy petition. Days later, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial placed the Fund under a state of emergency but that executive order is still being contested in the Legislature.

AG Eric Holder to visit Guam

GUAM—Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. will visit Guam on Monday, July 16, 2012, as part of his ongoing efforts to visit districts served by U.S. Attorney's Offices across the country.


Holder

During his visit, Holder will meet with members of the U.S. Attorney's Office, federal and local law enforcement, and community leaders from both Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands to discuss issues impacting these districts and to thank them for their dedication and service to the citizens.

Holder will also participate in a joint District of Guam and District of the NMI Conference organized by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Districts of Guam and the CNMI, in conjunction with the District Court of Guam, U.S. District Court of the NMI, the Guam Bar Association, and the NMI Bar Association. The Guam and NMI federal and local Judiciaries, Bar Association members, and representatives from the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College are invited to participate in the conference, which will take place on Monday, July 16, 2012, at 9am. ***(PR)***

10TH YEAR REUNIION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Marianas High School Class of 2002 have their group photo taken on the night of their 10th year reunion on June 23, 2012, at the Pacific Islands Club on Saipan.

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on July 9-14, from 8am to 12:59am.

The U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy will conduct joint training at Warning Area 517 on July 10, from 8am to 12:59am.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at W-517 on July 11, from 8am to 5pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the CNMI.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

CULTURAL CENTER SCHEDULE

Home decorations and *amot pudus*

The Tinian Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on making home decorations using natural resources and making medicine for treatment of hemorrhoidal problems *(amot pudus)* this Saturday, July 7, 2012, at the Tinian Senior Citizen Center Pavilion. The lesson will start at 9Am. Bring your children so they, too, can learn the traditional ways of the Chamorros and Carolinians.

These activities are offered by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture, in partnership with the Community and Cultural Affairs, Office of the Mayor (Tinian), and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, call 433-9220 on Tinian and ask for Raymond Sablan. ***(PR)***

ATTENTION
PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND STUDENTS
FINAL WEEK
Calvary Christian Academy's Closing Out Sale Continues
Monday through Friday
July 9 through July 13
7:30 AM to 3:00 PM Daily
Closed 12:00 to 12:30 each day for lunch

Many, many items still for sale.

- Student Lockers
- Rolling Computer Tables
- Kitchen Equipment and Supplies
- Science Laboratory Furniture, Equipment, and Supplies
- School supplies
- Office supplies
- Teacher supplies
- Bulletin Board material
- BOOKS and supplemental material
- Curriculum and Teacher's editions
- Encyclopedias
- Library books
- Large wooden cabinets
- Water Cooling Dispensers
- Household furniture and supplies
- Brand new boys' pants (navy blue, all sizes)
- Brand new girls' skirts (navy blue, all sizes)
- Office Desk
- Construction Paper

Questions? 234-6026
Located in Chalan Kiya

PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH LAW REVISION COMMISSION
(JUDICIAL BRANCH)
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, July 11, 2012, 10:30 a.m.
Commonwealth Law Revision Commission Office
House of Justice/Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewee
Susupe, Saipan

AGENDA

1. **Preliminary Matters**
   - A. Call to Order and Roll Call
   - B. Introductions
   - C. Meeting Notice (Compliance with Open Govt. Act, 1 CMC § 9901 et seq.)
   - D. Final Approval of December 15, 2011 Meeting Minutes
2. **Executive Director's Report**
   - A. 2012 Products
   - B. Licensing Agreements
   - C. Law Enforcement Officer Manual
   - D. FY '12 Budget
   - E. FY '13 Budget
   - F. Sale Items
   - G. Sales Report
   - H. Director position
3. **Old Business**
   - A. Non-revenue items
   - B. Coordination re: Commonwealth Register
4. **New Business**
   - A. By-laws
   - B. Website Development
   - C. Status of Researching CNMI law
5. **Other Business**
6. **Tentative Date for Next Meeting and Adjournment**

For further information or special accommodations, contact the Commission Office at 236-9820 or email albert.hicking@justice.gov.mp

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 160

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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MEMBER
AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

The city's a'changin'

By GREGORY CLAY
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Gregory Clay is assistant sports editor for McClatchy-Tribune News Service, 700 12th Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20005; email: gclay@mctinfoservices.com.

WASHINGTON—It's a four-minute bus ride. That's all.

It takes four minutes in the heart of Washington to see night and day, a city of stark contrast.

We're talking neighborhoods here.

Like many major cities, the nation's capital is defined by "pockets."

Drive on upper 16th Street heading north, you will traverse a working-class "pocket." Drive west of 16th Street to Connecticut Avenue, you will see the upper-crust "pocket." The latter is akin to the 1970s hit television show "The Jeffersons"—moving on up … to a deluxe apartment in the sky.

I have lived in both worlds—in fact one world has twice been my residence. All you need to know is this: An apartment building on 16th Street has security guards at the front desk. An apartment building on Connecticut Avenue has concierges.

And this: According to a Washington Post report from March 2011, the nation's capital lost more than 39,000 black residents from 2000 to 2010. Meanwhile, the non-Latino white population zoomed by at least 50,000 during that time period.

Demographics are intriguing in major cities; they can change abruptly in a minuscule amount of space.

And size matters.

One aspect is obvious: the higher the socio-economic status of a neighborhood (Connecticut Avenue), the higher the fitness of its residents and the frequency of bikinis on Cosmopolitan-magazine-looking cover girls (like my college days back at the University of North Carolina); conversely, the lower the socio-economic status, the higher the obesity rate and the frequency of complacency (upper 16th Street).

Now, I see what first lady Michelle Obama is referencing in her anti-obesity campaign. Granted, I haven't performed a survey or produced a scientific study. This is strictly a walking observation and a listening awareness.

Working-class neighborhoods tend to harbor McDonald's franchises; upper-crust neighborhoods tend to promote health/organic tastes. Did someone say Whole Foods Market?

That much is obvious.

When I first moved to Washington, there were certain areas understood as "all black" in a predominantly black city that also appeared to be a dying city.

Take upper north 14th Street, for example.

Fifteen years ago, one particular section featured one lonesome store. The other buildings in the area were either boarded up or boarded down. There were no traffic jams.

Now, that area has been transformed into a little city within a larger city. There is a Target store, real restaurants, a Marshall Field's, new and improved apartment complexes and banks. (You know your neighborhood has arrived when banks set up shop there.) And there are traffic jams on Saturdays because of a sudden phalanx of weekend shoppers.

The racial dynamics of the area have changed quite drastically—which is the key component here.

Young, white urban professionals are the new norm in that 14th Street locale. That's the most noticeable metamorphosis in

See CITY on Next Page

Quakes, floods, droughts, fire, and hurricanes

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Climate change is one of those touchy subjects the acceptance of its reality implying governmental responsibility and re-examining economic costing which heretofore had ignored ecological costs.

The assumption that humans are contributing to Mama Earth's turbulence is anathema to thinkers who tolerate the aberrations as part of Mama Earth's unpredictable nature but cannot stand any suggestion that economics abuse the use of natural resources.

Better reporting, we are told, explains disasters' frequency, and has nothing to do with mineral extractions and exploitation of Mother Nature's processes. More specifically, any suggestion that the extraction of oil and the emission of fossil fuel into the atmosphere have anything to do with the convulsions being experienced in many places around the world is voodoo science.

Yet, if we consider the quakes in areas where oil explorations are occurring, (one struck Xinjiang south of Urumqi, and another devastated Sichuan again), add the flooding in areas of excessive water accumulation and flow, and the droughts in areas that could use some, and we begin to wonder if the patterns we relied on in the past had been altered by the change of currents and the increase of volume in the rapid melting of ice on both ends of the polar cap.

Science has confirmed the increase of temperature through the greenhouse effect of our carbon emissions, but it does not matter 'cause to many, the climate aberrations are Mama Gaia's feminine inscrutability. Pseudo science. There.

Meanwhile, quakes, floods, and droughts put considerable stress on our state of preparedness and programs of mitigation. Hurricanes and typhoons have always been with us so their devastations should be taken as a matter of course.

The fires. They are the product of criminal intents of arsonists and our failure to control their spread is a matter of human incompetence, plus an unusual climate dryness. It should not be laid on the altar of Mother Nature's changing patterns.

La-di-da. Blah. Blah. Blah. Anyone who says anything differently is an alarmist.

We were part of the NGO crowd in '76 during the Habitat UN Conference, and in '92, some colleagues joined the NGOs again in Rio de Janeiro for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. As anyone who ever dealt with procedure-guided agencies like UN bodies, they move at tectonic pace. Thus, in the Rio+20 held this June, 20 years later for the follow-up, the NGOs took to the parliament of the streets to promote alternative scenarios. Some representatives of indigenous peoples aired their right to be heard, honored, and recognized.

My participation in the NGO village of the '76 UN conference was from a stance of "methinks-you-protest-too-much" to "tell us what you are doing to create the new, and we shall listen; we might even follow." We highlighted the efforts of the Institute of Cultural Affairs in launching Human Development Projects around the world with a heavy emphasis on broad community participation.

I was one of the anchors in the initial efforts in Mactan, the Philippines. This was about the time I appropriated the "earthrise" as the symbol of my global village, and the blue orb in the sky as my hometown!

The efforts have since become institutionalized with national ICAs around the world continuing the replication of the facilitative style of leadership developed out of the projects, and the comprehensive decision-making process it entailed. This is, however, a drop in the bucket compared to the enormity of the planetary challenge, but as the Nike slogan keeps reminding us, when one opts for a way, "Just do it!"

The doom talk about what is causing the accelerated incidences of quakes, floods, droughts, fires, and hurricanes is just talk, and as an old Chinese saying goes, "Talk does not cook the rice." The negotiated text from the Rio-20 conference was ritually ripped into pieces during one of the street protests, so emotion on that sector remains high. And alternative write-up (people's manifesto) is circulated by the Civil Society Group for people to read and to sign (http://sustainabilitytreaties.org) though we confess that numbers in petitions had never shown any significant effect on policy.

Nevertheless, in the words of the petition: *"They (the signatories) announced their own responsibility for undertaking actions, inviting and encourage similar actions and commitments by other rightsholders and stakeholders, communicating a vision for healthy communities, sustainable and equitable human well-being and its associated strategies, and coming together in the form of a global citizen's movement to shepherd the transition to a sustainable, equitable, and democratic future."* We added our Hemingwei.

In a more specific matter in our backyard, the navy's project in the Pacific includes the use of high-frequency sound that incapacitates dolphins and whales. For information and an invitation to sign the circulating petition on the matter check out *http://signon.org/sign/navy-under-water-sound?source=s.em.mt&r_by=4906938*.

"Just do it" remains our creed. "Observe and judge the given facts, weigh up the values, decide and act," we sang in the '60s. It's on the acting that we're still singing these days!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The real national security threat: America's debt

By KENNETH LIEBERTHAL and MICHAEL O'HANLON
Los Angeles Times

Kenneth Lieberthal and Michael O'Hanlon are foreign policy scholars at the Brookings Institution and co-authors with Martin Indyk of Bending History: Barack Obama's Foreign Policy. *They wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Drones, kill lists, computer viruses and administration leaks are all the rage in the current political debate. They indeed merit serious scrutiny at a time when the rules of war, and technologies available for war, are changing fast. That said, these issues are not the foreign policy centerpiece of the 2012 presidential race.

Economic renewal and fiscal reform have become the pre-eminent issues, not only for domestic and economic policy but for foreign policy as well. As the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Michael G. Mullen was fond of saying, national debt has become perhaps our top national security threat. And neither major presidential candidate is doing enough about it. This issue needs to be framed as crucial not just for our future prosperity but for international stability as well.

The United States has been running trillion-dollar deficits, resulting in a huge explosion in the country's indebtedness. Publicly held debt now equals 70 percent of gross domestic product, a threshold many economists consider significant and highly worrisome. Making matters worse, half of our current deficit financing is being provided by foreigners. We are getting by with low interest rates and tolerable levels of domestic investment only because they find U.S. debt attractive, which may not last.

According to the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, President Obama's long-term budget plan would allow publicly held debt as a fraction of GDP to rise further, up to 75 percent, within a decade. Mitt Romney's proposal, featuring tax cuts and defense spending increases and as-yet-unspecified (and thus less than fully credible) entitlement reform, appears worse. It would probably drive publicly held debt to 95 percent of GDP over the same period. Put differently, though both are serious and pragmatic men, neither major party's presidential candidate is adequately stepping up to the plate, with Romney's plan the more troubling of the two.

Why is this situation so serious? First, we are headed for a level of debt that within a decade could require us to spend the first trillion dollars of every year's federal budget servicing that debt. Much less money will be left for other things. That is a prescription for a vicious cycle of underfinancing for our infrastructure, national education efforts, science research and all the other functions of government that are crucial to long-term economic growth. Robust defense spending will be unsustainable too. Once we get in this rut, getting out will be very hard.

Second, such a chronic economic decline would undercut what has been 70 years of strong national political consensus in favor of an activist and engaged American foreign policy. One reason the United States was so engaged through the Cold War and the first 20 years of the post-Cold War world was fear of threats. But the other reason was that the strategy was associated with improvements in our quality of life as well. America became even more prosperous, and all major segments of society benefited.

Alas, globalization and automation trends of the last generation have increasingly called the American dream into question for the working classes. Another decade of underinvestment in what is required to remedy this situation will make an isolationist or populist president far more likely because much of the country will question whether an internationalist role makes sense for America—especially if it costs us well over half a trillion dollars in defense spending annually yet seems correlated with more job losses.

Last, American economic weakness undercuts U.S. leadership abroad. Other countries sense our weakness and wonder about our purported decline. If this perception becomes more widespread, and the case that we are in decline becomes more persuasive, countries will begin to take actions that reflect their skepticism about America's future. Allies and friends will doubt our commitment and may pursue nuclear weapons for their own security, for example; adversaries will sense opportunity and be less restrained in throwing around their weight in their own neighborhoods. The crucial Persian Gulf and Western Pacific regions will likely become less stable. Major war will become more likely.

When running for president last time, Obama eloquently articulated big foreign policy visions: healing America's breach with the Muslim world, controlling global climate change, dramatically curbing global poverty through development aid, moving toward a world free of nuclear weapons. These were, and remain, worthy if elusive goals. However, for Obama or his successor, there is now a much more urgent big-picture issue: restoring U.S. economic strength. Nothing else is really possible if that fundamental prerequisite to effective foreign policy is not re-established.

CITY

From Page 10

the capital city.

At my apartment building on Connecticut Avenue, probably 95 percent of the residents were white—mostly professional job holders. Most of them appeared to be under 40 years old. Most of them likely were college graduates. There was the white female nurse who went to Syracuse; there was the beautiful Asian woman who had a physics degree from Georgetown; another woman was a pediatrician, and there was the guy who was an ardent triathlon competitor.

At the apartment building on 16th Street (where I have spent two separate stints, including the present), there is more diversity. The building probably is a third black, a third white and a third Latino—with more of a working-class environment. Many in the area labor in lower-level jobs, such as janitorial services and restaurant dish washers. That description has been the norm for years.

But that particular scenario is becoming an anomaly amid a wider sea of change.

That sea isn't an aberration either.

The following three paragraphs from that aforementioned 2011 Washington Post article detail concisely the transformation of the city:

"The loss of blacks comes at a time when the city is experiencing a rebound, reversing a 60-year-long slide in population and adding almost 20,000 new residents between 2000 and 2010.

"The demographic change is the result of almost 15 years of gentrification that has transformed large swaths of Washington, especially downtown. As housing prices soared, white professionals priced out of neighborhoods such as Dupont Circle began migrating to predominantly black areas such as Petworth and Brookland.

"The city became a tougher place to live for working-class families, who had to contend with rising rents and soaring property taxes. Many of the new jobs created over the past decade have required higher education."

The bottom line is simply this: If a city is overwhelmingly swamped with a preponderance of residents on public assistance, there is little room for growth. Little growth means less revenue for the city coffers.

However, on the other side of the ledger, the more education of residents means better jobs, which, in turn, means a higher taxable population base.

Now, you decide: What's better for a heretofore crumbling city?

The answer lies in that four-minute bus ride.

What's wrong with 'plagiarizing' your own work?

By EDWARD WASSERMAN
The Miami Herald

Edward Wasserman is Knight professor of journalism ethics at Washington and Lee University. He wrote this column for The Miami Herald.

Jonah Lehrer is a science writer who at age 30 is at the top of his game. He has written three books, two of them bestsellers, his articles and columns run in the country's best newspapers and magazines and he has parlayed his publishing success into online celebrity and star billing on the speaking circuit.

But two weeks ago, just after he moved from *Wired* magazine to the *New Yorker*, the most desirable billet in literary journalism, Lehrer got a sour dose of notoriety: He was drawn into a fierce dispute over, for lack of a better word, the originality of his work.

The originality of his ideas wasn't the problem. After all, he's a science writer, not a scientist. Like his New Yorker colleague, the fabulously successful Malcolm Gladwell, Lehrer's shtick consists of breaking down and spelling out provocative insights from theoreticians and lab wizards. The ideas aren't supposed to be his.

Nor was he accused of helping himself to other people's words. Instead, what put the crosshairs on Lehrer was evidence that his current writings make excessive use of his own previous work.

The flap started when an anonymous tipster alerted Jim Romenesko, whose blog is closely followed by journalists, that Lehrer's June 12 *New Yorker* post, titled "Why Smart People Are Stupid," opened with the same three paragraphs he'd used in a *Wall Street Journal* column last fall.

Before long, other commentators found more instances. There was no agreement on what to call this practice. An early favorite, "self-plagiarism," made no sense: You can't steal from yourself. "Self-borrowing" has a similar problem. "Recycling" and "unacknowledged duplication" came closer to unvarnished descriptions, but neither reflects the ire the practice has raised.

Notably, the people who seem angriest about this aren't readers or even Lehrer's publishers, but other journalists.

His own boss, *New Yorker* editor David Remnick, noted that Lehrer had neither stolen nor fabricated. "... (I)f he were making things up or appropriating other people's words," Remnick suggested, that would be another matter. Although an editor's note attached to five of the New Yorker posts concluded, "We regret the duplication of material," it's not self-evident what exactly was regrettable.

At first blush, reusing worthwhile work seems not only permissible but beneficial. Plus, it's common. Often it's a way for expression that appeared in perishable form to live longer and reach more people. Lecturers, raconteurs, standup comics—and politicians—routinely deliver the same material to different crowds, and academics repurpose their work, suitably updated, for different journals. Although Edward Champion, an indefatigable researcher, offered a nearly 8,000-word expose hammering Lehrer for drawing promiscuously from his articles in writing his books, that's long been customary among newspaper columnists hoping to make an extra buck by giving their words longer shelf life than fish wrap.

Still, rank-and-file journalists were outraged. Curtis Brainard, of the *Columbia Journalism Review*'s website, suggested " the principles of honest and transparent reporting" were defied, and Jack Shafer, Reuters columnist, said Lehrer was "was an onanist, playing self-abuse games with his copy." Lehrer "plagiarizes himself repeatedly," declared the headline on Joe Coscarelli's *New York* magazine column.

The core of their criticism was that the practice was covert and hence fraudulent. Readers who paid for a top-tier publication who were unknowingly served warmed-over prose were being deceived. And the publishers who bought what they thought was custom work had a right to know they were getting pre-owned goods.

All true. But I think the emphasis on deception misstates the real problem. The more serious wrong is, I think, thornier—and what makes this affair noteworthy is that it's seldom considered ethically problematic. Lehrer is really being nailed for coasting, for intellectual sloth, for what on Broadway would be an actor "phoning it in." He conceded as much when he told *The New York Times* that what he did was "incredibly lazy and absolutely wrong."

His critics, to their credit, are doing something unusual in the realm of professional standard-setting—insisting that the quality of one's work really matters. Their criticism reaffirms an idea of professionalism that obligates writers—especially ones as obviously gifted as Lehrer—to strive, to push themselves to do ever better stuff, to produce fresh and rewarding expression, to refine and build upon previous insights, not just to dust them off because of relentless production pressures and because they can get away with it.

It's a powerful admonition, and it gives the tired old notion of quality a ranking in the hierarchy of journalistic values that it deserves and rarely gets.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

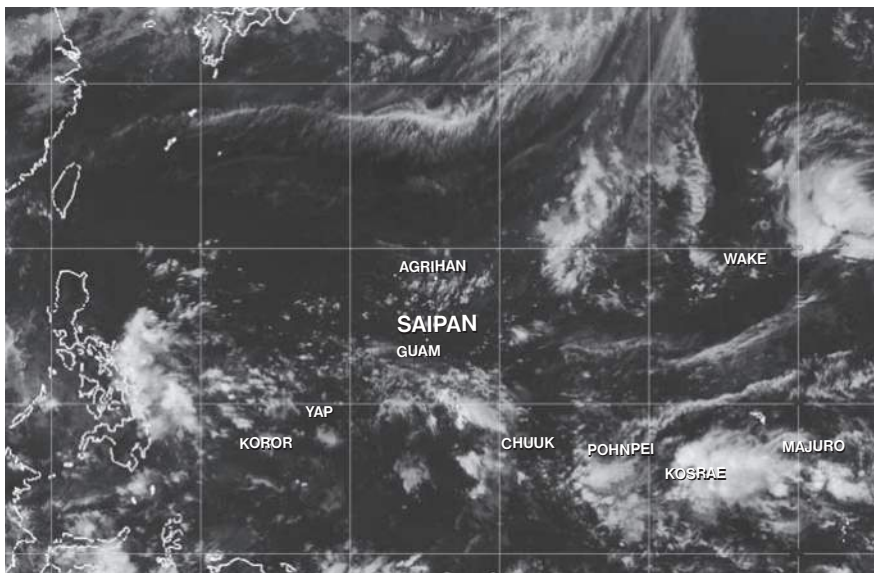
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲58	▼44
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲77	▼72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼83
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼73
London	Showers	▲69	▼58
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼39
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲99	▼76
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼70
Paris	Showers	▲68	▼58
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼69
Rome	Sunny	▲92	▼68
Salem	Sunny	▲88	▼57
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼54
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼69
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲78	▼68
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲106	▼83

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging low-level winds to the southeast of Koror are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of a line from 3N130E to EQ133E. A surface trough southeast of Yap and Koror extends from 1N141E to 10N149E. This trough and trade-wind convergence north of the trough are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms around Yap from 1N to 11N between 137E and 149E. Converging trades east of the trough are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Pohnpei to south of Kwajelein to Majuro within 250 miles of a line from 6N157E to 5N170E to 4N180. An upper level low northeast of Wake Island is producing scattered showers and thunderstorms north of 20N between 165E and 175E. An upper level trough extends southwest from the low. Scattered showers exist ahead of the trough from 16N to 21N between 155E and 165E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:26 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
10:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Monday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:36 PM	8:56 AM
Sunday	10:16 PM	9:49 AM
Monday	10:55 PM	10:39 AM
Tuesday	11:34 PM	11:29 AM
Wednesday		12:17 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 7, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sunday at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Wednesday at 6:00pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene
Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 7, 1999

CUC close to choosing Saipan power plant builder
A final report on the independent re-evaluation of the stalled power project on Saipan is expected to be completed within the next few days, inching closer to selecting a contractor to build the 80-megawatt plant, officials said yesterday. Burns & McDonnell, a U.S. engineering firm hired by Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to conduct another round of review on various project proposals, will submit its recommendations to the Board of Directors either this week or early next week. CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez said the board will decide whether to accept the recommendations and to award the $120 million project to the winning contractor.

'Live with what you have'
The chair of the House Ways and Means Committee has issued a stern warning to departments and agencies to live within their budget as lawmakers begin this week hearing various appeals for additional funds in line with the legislative review of the FY 2000 budget proposal. "Those who can't be accommodated in the request for additional money, we just have to tell them that they just have to live with what they have," said committee chair Rep. Karl T. Reyes. Tasked with deliberating on the spending plan submitted by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio last April, the panel expects to be inundated with requests for larger share of the government revenues estimated to reach $206.98 million next fiscal year.

July 7, 2000

Aranza eyes meeting with Legislature
Office of Insular Affairs Director Ferdinand Aranza vowed yesterday to meet with members of the Legislature to personally respond to allegations leveled against the federal agency over its treatment of the CNMI. At the same time, he reiterated his support for OIA's field representative here, Jeffrey Schorr, who has come under fire in both chambers after being implicated in the alleged improper political activities and smear campaign against the Commonwealth. Local senators last week adopted a resolution that called for his ouster, describing him as a "spy" based on the evidence uncovered by U.S. House Resources Committee Chair Don Young (R-Alaska) on its investigation into OIA's activities.

$850K grants from OIA
More than $850,000 in grants were received by the CNMI government from the Office of Insular Affairs yesterday to help the island meet its needs concerning upkeep of the American Memorial Park, coral reef protection and Y2K remediation measures. OIA Director Ferdinand Aranza flew in from Guam for a day trip on Saipan to specifically hand over the federal funds and to discuss with CNMI officials bilateral issues, such as economic concerns. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan attended the formal transfer of the federal funds to the Commonwealth held midday at the American Memorial Park.

July 7, 2003

No FEMA funds yet for CUC
The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has not received anything yet of its 90-percent expected reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Rota typhoon assistance. This, even as FEMA assistance funding for all jurisdictions was reportedly de-allocated due to a national budget situation last month, prompting the CNMI government to request for its reinstatement. The CNMI has since then received assurance from FEMA that its assistance funding would be reinstated. In a report to the CUC Board of Directors, acting comptroller Ed Williams said that he has not received any information as to when the CUC can claim any of its reimbursement. The agency expects to get $657,000 out of its $730,000 worth of submitted claims.

Power outage results in $15K losses
The island-wide power outage last June 4 resulted in a $15,600 loss for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., according to CUC acting comptroller Ed Williams. He said a three-member team comprised of personnel from power generation, power division, and accounting determined that CUC lost some $11,545 in revenue. In addition, the outage caused three water well pumps to burn out, which required approximately $7,940 in replacement. These pumps are located at Marpi Quarry, Isley Booster No. 2, and Agag Well No. 50.

Maharlika

AFTER CREDIT RATING UPGRADE

Peso sets new 4-year high at 41.68 to dollar

By MICHELLE V. REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The peso strengthened Thursday to hit a new four-year high as the market rejoiced the credit-rating upgrade for the Philippines granted by Standard & Poor's.

The local currency closed at 41.68 against the US dollar, up by 15 centavos from the previous day's finish of 41.83:$1.

The last time the peso hit at least as strong as 41.68:$1 was on March 24, 2008, when the local currency ended the trading day at the same exchange rate against the greenback.

Intraday high hit 41.60:$1, while intraday low settled at 41.73:$1. Volume of trade amounted to $808.10 million from $1.19 billion.

The appreciation of the peso came following the release of a report saying Standard & Poor's raised the Philippines long-term foreign currency rating from BB to BB+, or from two notches to one notch below investment grade.

S&P said its decision was based on the country's improving credit profile, characterized by a declining debt burden and rising external liquidity that makes it able to service its liabilities to foreign creditors.

From a peak of 84 percent in 2004, the national government's outstanding debt as a proportion of the country's gross domestic product had gradually fallen until reaching only about 50 percent to date.

Moreover, the Philippines' reserves of foreign currencies, or the gross international reserves, hit a historic high of $77 billion earlier this year. The amount was enough to cover for 11 months worth of imports and was equivalent to about six months of the country's short-term debts denominated in foreign currencies.

Traders said the upgrade of the country's credit rating boosted the appetite of fund owners for peso-denominated assets.

Purchases of peso-denominated stocks pushed the Philippine Stock Exchange Index to close at 5369.98, up by 15.26 points from the previous day's finish.

Aquino bullish on economy

»Credit upgrade to boost investments

By NORMAN BORDADORA, RONNEL W. DOMINGO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

President Aquino and his economic managers on Thursday voiced optimism that the upgrade of the Philippines' credit rating to just a notch below investment grade would boost the country's economic prospects and attract more foreign investments.

The Aquino administration is confident the Philippines will soon get an investment grade rating that will further lower the country's borrowing costs, free more funds for government spending and widen the economy's base of potential investors.

"We can now clearly make our case for an investment grade status," Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said in a text message to reporters.

While the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had previously said an investment grade rating was possible this year, Aquino would not hazard a guess as to when a further credit upgrade would come.

"We have a saying that we shouldn't say what we expect lest we jinx the whole thing ('baka mausog')," the President told Palace reporters. "(But) we definitely would work hard to get there."

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services (S&P) on Wednesday raised its credit rating on the Philippines to just one notch below investment grade, a move likely to boost bonds and currency trades and further lift an equity market that has hit new peaks this week.

AP

Two Filipino men peek through the windows of a luxury sports car at a showroom at a new upscale shopping and residential hub in Taguig, south of Manila, Philippines on Thursday, July 5, 2012. The Philippines says a credit rating upgrade by Standard & Poor's will help the country carry out reforms without weakening its financial position.

PH peso strongest

Already, the upgrade has propelled the Philippine peso to 41.72 against the US dollar, the local currency's strongest showing in four years. The peso is the best-performing currency in emerging Asia with a 5.2-percent gain against the dollar so far this year.

The Philippine economy grew by only 3.7 percent last year, well below the government target of 4.5 percent to 5.5 percent, but the S&P credit upgrade increases the likelihood this year's figures will be better.

The ratings move by S&P puts the Philippines one rung below its Southeast Asian neighbor Indonesia, which bagged investment grade ratings from Fitch Ratings last year and Moody's Investors Service early this year.

Stable outlook

S&P said it upgraded the Philippines' long-term sovereign credit rating to BB+ plus from BB with a stable outlook, citing improved fiscal flexibility and strong external position.

Credit rating is one of the criteria foreign investors use in deciding whether to buy a government bond or invest in a particular country. Many foreign fund managers are restricted from holding debt below investment grade.

S&P said a further credit upgrade would depend on the Philippine government's ability to generate more revenue or sustain fiscal reforms.

"The foreign currency rating upgrade reflects our assessment of gradually easing fiscal vulnerability, as the government's fiscal consolidation improves its debt profile and lowers its interest burden," the international credit rating agency said in a statement.

"The rating action also reflects the country's strengthening external position, with remittances and an expanding service export sector continuing to drive current account surpluses," it added.

S&P said the country's high, although declining, interest expenditures and weak revenues were rating constraints, along with relatively high government foreign currency debt.

The Philippines is one of several Southeast Asian countries showing stronger signs of resilience to global turbulence as buoyant domestic spending offsets struggling exports.

More Filipinos working abroad—NSO

By JOVAN CERDA
PHILIPPINE STAR

MANILA, Philippines—The total number of overseas Filipino workers from April to September 2011 jumped by 10 percent to 2.2 million from the 2 million recorded in the previous year, the National Statistics Office reported Tuesday.

NSO said out of this number, overseas contract workers or those with existing work contracts comprised 95.3 percent of the total OFWs in 2011.

Among OFWs, the males accounted for 52.2 percent while females were at 47.8 percent. The largest age group was the 25 to 29-year-old age bracket which made up 23.6 percent of the total. This was followed by the 30 to 34-year-old group at 22.6 percent, NSO said.

It added that OFWs from CALABARZON (Cavite Laguna, Batangas, Rizal amd Quezon) accounted for 16.5 percent of the total, while those from Central Luzon and the National Capital Region constituted 14.3 percent and 12.5 percent, respectively.

"Saudi Arabia continued to be the leading destination of OFWs with 22.6 percent of the total OFWs working in this country during the period April to September 2011. The other countries in Asia that were popular destinations of OFWs were United Arab Emirates (14.6 percent), Qatar (6.9 percent), Singapore (6.3 percent) and Hong Kong (5.3 percent)," NSO said.

Search is on for Happiest Pinoy

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Cebuana Lhuillier Insurance Solutions has launched the Second Nationwide *Search* for the Happiest Pinoy. The campaign aims to look for and recognize the most cheerful and optimistic Filipino who has remarkably exhibited resilience amidst life's constant challenges and who has made a significant impact in the lives of others.

The *Search* is open to Filipinos 10 years old and above or organizations or groups registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. To nominate, one may secure online nomination forms and upload entries to the Happiest Pinoy website and submit the accomplished form to the CLIS head office located at 821 A. Spring cor. J. P. Rizal Street, Makati, Philippines. Nominations will be accepted until July 31, 2012.

The "Happiest Pinoy" winner will receive a cash prize of P250,000 and trophy while the nine runners-up will receive P25,000 each and a trophy. The top 10 finalists will be presented to the media and the "Happiest Pinoy" will be announced during a gala dinner on September 25, 2012 at Shangri-la Makati.

Interested parties may visit the "Happiest Pinoy" website at www.happiest-pinoy.com for more details and guidelines on the *Search*. ***(PR)***

TFC and CFO: One with Filipinos

QUEZON CITY, Philippines—The Filipino Channel, more commonly known as TFC, and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas forged on June 27, 2012, a partnership that will further strengthen the ties of the estimated 10 million Filipino migrants worldwide to the Philippines.

According to Raffy Lopez, chief operating officer of ABS-CBN Global Ltd., TFC has long recognized the importance of reaching the growing overseas Filipino population.

"As the largest communications network that pioneered in providing up-to-date information on the Philippines and its diaspora communities, our decision to link up with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas is a strategic move," Lopez said in his speech. "Together, we hope to equip them for a life far different from their lives in the Philippines, guide them in their journey and to continue to be their pillar of strength as they trudge the unsteady, early stages of life as an overseas Filipino. In all these, CFO and TFC have found specific ways to bring our efforts together."

The CFO, a 32-year-old government agency under the Office of the President, will work closely with TFC to improve their frontline services for departing migrants such as direct hires, spouses or partners of foreign nationals, reuniting petitioned families, and exchange visitor program participants.

CFO chair Imelda Nicolas said that "with this memorandum of agreement with TFC, the network joins CFO in our collective desire to provide good governance to the Filipino people, wherever they may be. …With TFC, the overseas Filipino community feels closer to home and is updated on what is happening in the Philippines and hopefully will be informed about the programs and activities the Philippine government is undertaking especially through our agency."

"Specifically, TFC captured migrants' post arrival anxieties, job search experiences, bouts of loneliness and eventual adjustments in vignettes titled "Ako ang TFC." The video clips aim to show the reality that beset migrants as well as how TFC can help ease their resettlement concerns. These will also make Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars more realistic since these are authentic accounts from Canada, Australia, the United States and other destinations under the TFC umbrella," said Nicolas.

Nicolas and Lopez were joined by ABS-CBN Global Ltd. Chief Marketing Officer Jojo Ines, CFO media consultant Anna Leah Sarabia, Admin & Finance Division chief Regina Galias, and ABS-CBN Global Ltd. Manila country manager Edson Aguiflor at the MOA signing at the Eugenio Lopez Communications Center.

The joint efforts of TFC and the CFO as well as the alignment of their respective vision and mission will increase the promotion and protection of the welfare of overseas Filipinos. ***(PR)***

Philippines protests China's moving in on Macclesfield Bank

By JERRY E. ESPLANADA, NORMAN BORDADORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Philippines on Wednesday protested China's move placing virtually the entire West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), including the Philippine territory of Macclesfield Bank and its surrounding waters, under the jurisdiction of a newly created city.

Manila's protest came as the latest sour turn in relations between the Philippines and China, which have yet to find a temporary solution to their dispute over Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal), a resource-rich reef in the West Philippine Sea just west of Zambales province.

Also on Thursday, President Aquino urged the Chinese authorities to "balance [their] statements with the truth" in response to their accusation that he was trying to stir tension in the West Philippine Sea by asking for U.S. help in monitoring the disputed waters.

Aquino convened his Cabinet—the second time in a week under an administration that rarely holds full Cabinet meetings—to discuss territorial issues with China and hear views on dealing with the country's increasingly aggressive neighbor.

Strongest statement

The President issued his strongest statement yet since he threatened last week to send government vessels back to Panatag Shoal unless China called its ships and fishing boats home.

"It's not clear with me what the provocative statements that have been said to have come from Philippine officials, but we know there are many things being said from the other side," Aquino told reporters in Malacañang.

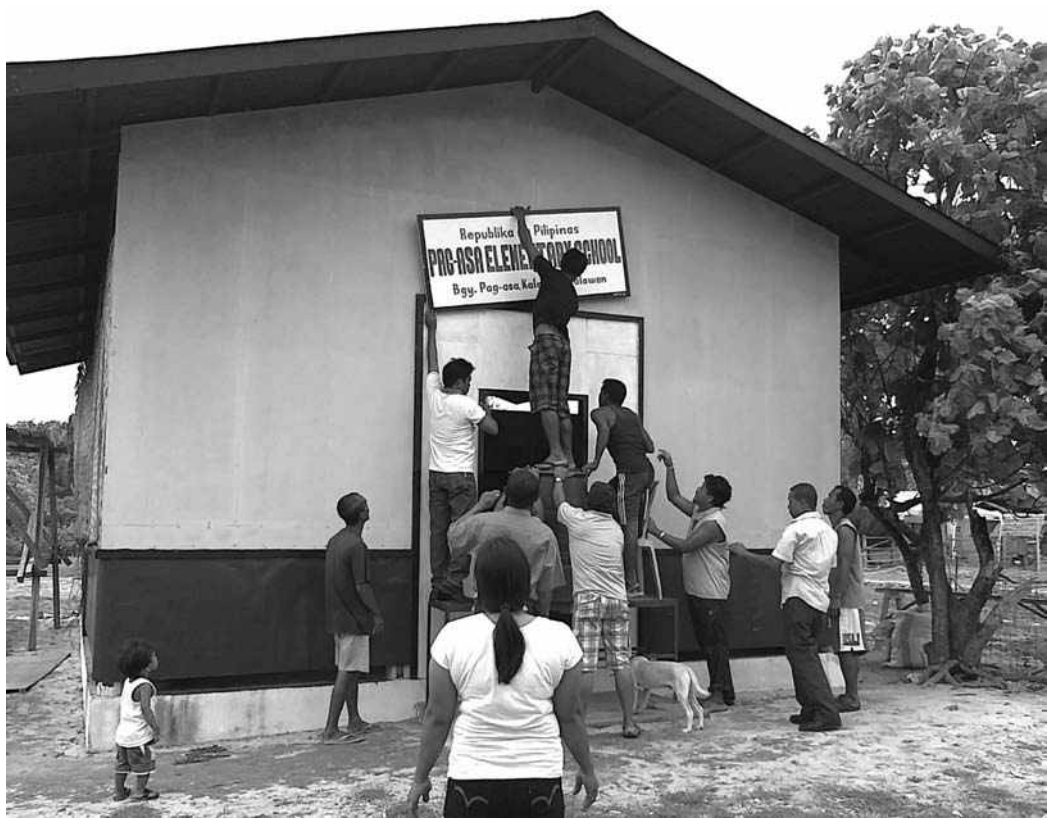
"They should read what has been written from their end and, with all due respect, perhaps they should balance what they are saying with the truth," he said.

"It has been almost three weeks since our Coast Guard vessel pulled out of [Panatag Shoal]. If [China's] vessels … have also gone home, there's already no more issue," the President said. "So who could be the one prolonging this [dispute over] Panatag Shoal?"

Asked when he would order government vessels back to Panatag Shoal, Aquino said, "That will be, of course, dependent on the weather."

Macclesfield Bank is a huge underwater group of reefs and shoals located east of the Paracel Islands, southwest of the Pratas Islands and north of the Spratly Islands in the center of the West Philippine Sea.

The Philippines claims Macclesfield Bank and administers it through the provincial government of Zambales. It is one of the largest atolls in the world, covering an area of 6,500 square kilometers, and is surrounded by excellent fishing waters.



AP
In this Friday, June 15, 2012 photo released by the Office of Kalayaan Municipality Mayor Eugenio Bitoonon, residents and workers put up a sign at the newly opened Pag-asa elementary school on a disputed South China Sea island.

Policy of deescalation

China's Ministry of Civil Affairs said in June that putting Macclesfield Bank, the Paracels and the Spratlys under Sansha would "further strengthen China's administration and development" of the three island groups.

There was no immediate comment from the Chinese Embassy in Manila on the Philippines' Macclesfield protest.

The Philippines on June 15 stepped back from a two-month maritime standoff with China at the shoal and had since imposed a policy of deescalation.

But on Monday, President Aquino said the government might ask the United States to deploy spy planes over the West Philippine Sea to help monitor the disputed waters.

And on Wednesday, after weeks of inaction, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) protested China's latest move that impinged on Philippine sovereignty over its parts of the West Philippine Sea.

Diplomatic protest

In a statement issued Thursday, the DFA said it summoned Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Ma Keqing on Wednesday and handed her a note protesting China's recent declaration that placed Macclesfield Bank under the prefectural oversight of newly established Sansha City.

In June, China's State Council declared Macclesfield Bank, Paracel Islands and Spratly Islands—known in Chinese as Zhongsha Islands, Xisha Islands and Nansha Islands—parts of Sansha City, to tighten its grip on contested parts of the West Philippine Sea amid territorial disputes with the Philippines and Vietnam.

The DFA said the extent of Sansha's jurisdiction "violates Philippine sovereignty over the Kalayaan Group of Islands and Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal)."

China's move also "infringes on Philippine sovereign rights over the waters and the continental shelf of the West Philippine Sea," the DFA said.

The expansive jurisdiction of Sansha, the DFA said, "contradicts the spirit of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea" between China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean)." The Asean and China signed the nonaggression accord in 2002.

The DFA reiterated that the Kalayaan Group and the Bajo de Masinloc, which Manila also calls Panatag Shoal, and their surrounding waters "form an internal part of Philippine territory and maritime jurisdiction."

Help from treaty ally

On asking the United States for spy plane overflights, Aquino said the Philippines was well within its right to ask an ally for assistance in monitoring its own territory.

"America is a treaty ally. We have a lack. They have a capability," Aquino said. "If ever our capability would fall short, I believe we can approach them to add to our situational awareness, especially in the West Philippine Sea."

Aquino said, however, that asking for US help in monitoring is just an option, correcting a report that seemed to indicate permission has been given for overflights.

The meeting on the territorial dispute with China began at about 1:30 p.m.

Talks, not ships

Among those seen going into the meeting were Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Senator Antonio Trillanes IV. Enrile is a former secretary of national defense, while Trillanes is a former Navy officer.

As the Cabinet prepared for the discussions, Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo urged Malacañang to deescalate the growing tensions with China over Panatag Shoal.

Pabillo said the government should continue talking to the Chinese instead of sending back ships to the shoal.

"We can achieve [peace] through dialogue," Pabillo said. "Don't aggravate the situation [by sending the ships back]. Hold dialogues."

Macau's Melco in $1B Philippine casino project

By KELVIN CHAN
AP BUSINESS WRITER

HONG KONG (AP)—Macau gambling company Melco Crown Entertainment is teaming up with the Philippines' richest man to develop a $1 billion Manila casino resort in a sign of the industry's plans for rapid expansion in Asia.

Melco said late Thursday it will develop the project with three companies controlled by Philippine tycoon Henry Sy. Melco is jointly controlled by Lawrence Ho, who is the son of Macau casino king Stanley Ho, and by James Packer, the son of late Australian media magnate Kerry Packer.

Melco has signed an agreement with Sy's investment holding company SM Investments Corp., his property developer Belle Corp. and Belle subsidiary PremiumLeisure and Amusement Inc.

The Philippine casino regulator has already issued a provisional gambling license to the group for the casino, which will include a hotel, shopping and entertainment facilities and will be located in a middle-class suburb on Manila Bay. A regular license will be issued once certain conditions are met.

Melco expects to invest up to $580 million. The Manila project would be the company's first outside Macau, the world's most lucrative gambling market where it operates two casino and is developing a third. High-rolling Chinese gamblers have powered Macau's gambling revenue growth. Last year, the semi-autonomous Chinese region raked in $33.5 billion in casino revenue, up 42 percent over the year before and more than five times the amount on the Las Vegas Strip.

Melco said it wanted to expand in the Philippines because the country is a popular tourist destination and close to major sources of tourists including South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and China.

The company said it wanted to "take advantage of the anticipated growth in the leisure and tourism industries in the Philippines, which will cater to an increasingly affluent and growing Asian middle class who continue to seek new travel destinations and experiences."

Japanese slot machine tycoon Kazuo Okada is also developing a casino in Manila.

Philippines on the brink of a credit boom—Fitch Rating

By MICHELLE V. REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Fitch Ratings said the Philippines might be at an early stage of a credit boom, citing the enormous liquidity enjoyed by the banking sector that has given it capability to maintain over the medium term the robust pace of lending growth seen recently.

In its latest report on the Philippines, Fitch said the substantial resources of banks in the country would be favorable given the significant financing requirement of the public sector to support costly infrastructure projects.

However, the international credit watchdog also warned of adverse consequences if lending and investment activities would not come along with strict monitoring by the country's monetary officials.

"[The pace of credit growth] suggests the Philippines could be in the midst of a nascent credit boom," Fitch said in the report.

"In the near term, this [robust pace of credit growth registered since 2011] could prove highly favorable… Over the longer term, however, it is likely to test the BSP's macroeconomic management abilities after so many years of sustained onshore deleveraging," Fitch said.

Fitch explained that following the 1997 Asian financial crisis to 2010, credit growth in the Philippines may be described as anemic to moderate. Given this, there is risk the BSP may not be fully on guard amid threat of a credit boom over the medium term, according to Fitch.

Credit extended by private firms in the country fell from 67 percent of gross domestic product in 1997 to only 28.9 percent in 2007, Fitch noted. But the figure sharply bounced to 70 percent by the end of 2011, it added.

Economists define credit boom, in contrast to healthy level of credit growth, as characterized by lending spree that could lead to asset price bubbles and overheating of an economy.

Fitch suggested that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas be prepared to implement measures that could prevent a potentially full-blown credit boom in the future.

For instance, it said, the BSP could increase the reserve requirement—the proportion of deposits that banks must keep as reserves and, therefore, must not lend out—to levels that would keep lending growth at a prudent pace. The reserve requirement currently stands at 18 percent.

Since the start of 2011, credit growth has sustained a double-digit pace of growth on the back of rising resources of banks. These resources are being driven largely by increasing deposits from the public and partly by bank profits.

Fitch noted that banks in the Philippines could sustain the double-digit pace of lending growth in the next couple of years given available liquidity. It cited the P1.6 trillion in cash currently parked by banks at the special deposit account facility of the BSP. Fitch said this money could be tapped anytime for lending activities.

"The potential economic and social positives that may stem from an investment-led boom in the Philippines are substantial. That said, Fitch is wary of the potential consequences a credit boom could engender in light of ample onshore liquidity," it said.

Memorial Rites

Photos and Text By
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos join Frances T. Demapan and the rest of the family and relatives of the late former CNMI Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan during a memorial ceremony at Guma Hustisia in Susupe yesterday.

Frances T. Demapan, left, wife of the late former CNMI Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, is joined by, from left, back row, former judge Timothy Bellas, acting chief justice Alexandro Castro, Associate Justice John Manglona, and Presiding Judge Robert Naraja.

Frances T. Demapan, fourth from left, front row, is flanked by her children and CNMI and Guam justices and judges.

From left, Associate Judge Joseph Camacho, Associate Judge Perry Inos, Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo, Associate Judge David Wiseman, and Presiding Judge Robert Naraja.

Frances T. Demapan, left, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, after the ceremony. In the background are Demapan's children.

From left, acting CNMI chief justice Alexandro Castro, Guam Superior Court Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, and Presiding Judge Robert Naraja.

Court employees line up to personally express their condolences to the family and children of the late former CNMI Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan.

The family and relatives of the late former CNMI Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan.

Business

As Obama campaigns, jobs numbers sure to set tone

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—The presidential campaign is pressing into the heat of summer just as the government issues new jobless numbers that will define the state of the economy and the political contest four months from Election Day.

President Barack Obama on Friday continues an up-close-and-personal bus tour of Ohio and Pennsylvania, two hotly contested states, eager to leverage their modest economic successes into a case for his re-election. He is dishing out handshakes and hugs before the cameras, hitting neighborhoods that feel a long way from official Washington.

Mitt Romney, the Republican challenger, remained at his New Hampshire vacation home as speculation turns to the selection of his running mate and the possibility his list could include a woman.

AP

President Barack Obama visits Bergman Orchards Farm Market in Port Clinton, Ohio, Thursday, July 5, 2012. Obama is on a two-day bus trip through Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The jobless numbers promised to command attention Friday and determine the nature of the political debate. The unemployment and hiring figures provide monthly milestones with which to measure the human toll of the weak economic recovery. Economists were predicting 90,000 jobs were added last month, more than in May but still not enough to dent the 8.2 percent unemployment rate.

A bad employment report could damage the public's already wavering economic confidence. The percentage of people in an Associated Press-GfK poll last month that said the economy got better in the past month fell below 20 percent for the first time since fall. And few said they expected much improvement in the unemployment rate in the coming year.

Still, Romney has not been able to exploit that sentiment fully. In national polls, the president either retains a slight edge over or is in a statistical tie with his challenger.

All in all, the economic data continued to provide a mixed picture of the recovery. Weekly unemployment benefit applications dropped last week to the lowest number since the week of May 19. At the same time, retailers recorded tepid sales in June. And a report last week said U.S. manufacturing shrank in June for the first time in nearly three years, undermining a top Obama talking point.

National polls show more disapproving than approving of Obama's handling of the economy, but the AP-GfK poll last month showed Romney and Obama tied on the question of who the public trusted more to handle the economy.

In selecting Ohio and Pennsylvania for his two-day bus tour, Obama began a more retail-oriented phase of his campaign in two battleground states that have had better economic experiences than other parts of the country. Both states had unemployment rates of 7.3 percent in May, well below the national average of 8.2 percent.

Friday's schedule includes a stop at an elementary school in Poland, Ohio, near Youngstown, followed by a speech at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

US hiring outlook improves, but economy still weak

WASHINGTON (AP)—The outlook for the U.S. job market brightened a little Thursday after the government said fewer people applied for unemployment benefits last week and surveys of private companies showed hiring increased in June.

The economy is still far from healthy. U.S. service companies grew more slowly last month. Retail sales figures were disappointing. And central banks in Europe and China cut their interest rates, an indication that they expect weaker growth ahead.

But despite all the gloom, American factories and service firms kept hiring in June. Economists say that suggests many companies are less worried that the spring slump will endure.

"It is beginning to look like the labor market is not nearly as weak as feared," Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors, said in a note to clients.

Wall Street was mixed in light of the latest economic reports. Stocks fell early but recovered much of their losses by midday. Bad news from Europe was offset by higher expectations for June job growth, which the government will report on Friday.

The economy added an average of just 73,000 jobs a month in April and May. That's much lower than the 226,000 a month that were added in the first three months of the year. And it's far too low to reduce the unemployment rate, which rose to 8.2 percent in May.

Before Thursday, most economists didn't expect much change from that pace. They forecast that employers added 90,000 jobs last month, while the unemployment rate didn't change, according to a survey by Factset.

But several sounded slightly more optimistic after seeing a slate of better data.

Weekly unemployment benefit applications dropped by 14,000 to a seasonally adjusted 374,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. That's the fewest since the week of May 19.

Payroll provider ADP said businesses added 176,000 jobs last month. That's better than the revised total of 136,000 jobs it reported for May and, if sustained, would be enough to lower the unemployment rate.

Goldman Sachs responded to the better data by raising its forecast to a gain of 125,000 jobs last month, up from its initial prediction of 75,000.

Brian Bethune, chief economist for Alpha Economic Foresights LLC, said he expects job growth of 120,000 to 140,000. But he warned that even those figures were too weak to bring down unemployment.

Economists typically say it takes at least 125,000 new jobs each month to absorb population growth.

As US economy steadies, bank closings become rarer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fewer U.S. banks are failing than at any time since the financial crisis erupted in 2008. The healthier banking industry is helping sustain an economy slowed by lackluster hiring, weak manufacturing and Europe's debt crisis.

Banks have benefited from low interest rates, higher account fees and more mergers. The recovery from the financial crisis has helped, too. It means more people and businesses can take out and repay loans.

Banks remain generally cautious about lending. And their rebound has yet to drive a robust economic recovery from the recession that officially ended three years ago. But the banks' gains have allowed them to make gradually more loans and keep the economy from slowing further. Bank loans rose at a 2.1 percent annual rate in the first three months of 2012 and at a 4.6 percent rate since then, according to the latest Federal Reserve data.

Signs of the industry's improvement:

■ Banks are making more money. In the first three months of 2012, the industry's earnings reached $35 billion, up from $29 billion in the first quarter of 2011. It was the best showing since 2007. At the depth of the recession in the fourth quarter of 2008, the industry lost $32 billion.

■ Fewer banks are considered at risk of failure. In January through March this year, the number of banks on the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.'s confidential "problem" list fell for a fourth straight quarter. The list consists of banks considered at risk of failure. The list numbers 772 as of March 31—about 9.5 percent of U.S. banks. At its peak in the first quarter of last year, the number was 888.

■ Bank failures are down. In 2009, 140 banks failed. In 2010, more banks failed—157—than in any year since the savings and loan crisis of the early 1990s. In 2011, 92 failed. This year, regulators closed 31 in the first half of the year. For the full year, they're on pace to shut down around 60. That's still more than normal. In a good economy, only about four or five banks close each year. But the pace shows sustained improvement.

■ Less fear of loan losses. The money banks must set aside for possible loan losses declined by nearly a third in the January-March quarter compared with a year earlier. Their loan portfolios have grown safer as more customers have repaid on time. FDIC figures show loan losses have fallen for seven straight quarters. And the proportion of loans with payments overdue by 90 days or more has dropped for eight straight quarters.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil prices lower after disappointing economic data

NEW YORK (AP)—A slew of disappointing economic news spooked investors Thursday and pushed down the price of oil. Major retailers reported tepid sales in June as consumers cut back on spending. And service companies appeared to be struggling, as growth in that sector last month came at the slowest pace in nearly two and a half years. The U.S. is the world's biggest consumer of oil. When its economy falters, investors worry about falling demand for petroleum products.

Money market fund assets rise to $2.538 trillion

NEW YORK (AP)—Total U.S. money market mutual fund assets fell $5.31 billion to $2.533 trillion for the week that ended Wednesday, the Investment Company Institute said Thursday. Assets of the nation's retail money market mutual funds rose $3.8 billion to $887.75 billion, the Washington-based mutual fund trade group said. Assets of taxable money market funds in the retail category rose $1.38 billion to $700.4 billion. Tax-exempt retail fund assets fell $2.42 billion to $187.36 billion. Meanwhile, assets of institutional money market funds fell $9.11 billion to $1.645 trillion. Among institutional funds, taxable money market fund assets fell $11.5 billion to $1.558 trillion. Assets of tax-exempt funds rose $2.39 billion to $87.06 billion.

Walgreen plans new acquisition, June sales fall

Walgreen Co. took another step Thursday in its push to grow through acquisitions when it announced the $438 million purchase of a regional chain that operates USA Drug, Super D and May's drugstores. The Deerfield, Ill., company also said monthly sales fell once again in June, as a split with pharmacy benefits manager Express Scripts Holding Co. continued to hurt business. Walgreen plans to buy 144 stores in a chain focused on the mid-South from the privately held Stephen L. LaFrance Holdings Inc., which is based in Little Rock, Ark. ***(AP)***

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,896.67	1,367.58	2,976.12
-47.15	-6.44	+0.04
-0.36%	-0.47%	0.00%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9743	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7538	Philippine Peso	41.7500
British Pound	0.6441	Indian Rupee	55.4650	Singapore Dollar	1.2683
Canadian Dollar	1.0144	Indonesian Rupiah	9,386.00	South Korean Won	1,138.41
Chinese Yuan	6.3664	Japanese Yen	79.8200	Swiss Franc	0.9701
Euro	0.8075	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1730	Taiwan Dollar	29.8980
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2455	Thailand Baht	31.6400

Nation

House bill would cut food stamps, farm subsidies

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Agriculture Committee on Thursday unveiled its approach for a long-term farm and food bill that would reduce spending by $3.5 billion a year, almost half of that coming from cuts in the federal food stamp program.

The legislative draft envisions reducing current food stamp spending projections by $1.6 billion a year, four times the amount of cuts incorporated in the five-year, half-trillion-dollar farm bill passed by the Senate last month.

Food stamps, formally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, look to be the most contentious issue when the Agriculture Committee begins voting on the bill Wednesday and when the full House begins debating it in the future.

Conservatives in the Republican-led House are certain to demand greater cuts in the food stamps program, which makes up about 80 percent of the nearly $100 billion a year in spending under the farm bill. Senate Democrats are equally certain to resist more cuts in a program that now helps feed 46 million people, 1 out of every 7 Americans.

AP

The sun rises in Pleasant Plains, Ill. on Wednesday, July 4, 3012. Corn crops are struggling under dry conditions and a record breaking heat wave that is over most of the country.

"Underfunding this critically important program when families temporarily rely on it to put food on the table in a tough economy is irresponsible and inhumane," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., a food stamp advocate in the House. The Agriculture Committee said its bill would strengthen the program's integrity while better targeting assistance to those in need of it.

The House proposal, like the Senate measure that passed on a bipartisan 64-35 vote, also does away with the much-criticized direct payment system whereby farmers get federal assistance even when they don't plant a crop. Both put greater emphasis on crop insurance to help farmers get through natural disasters and falling prices.

The House bill differs, though, in giving farmers a one-time choice between a revenue loss program to cover shallow losses before insurance kicks in and a new target price program to see producers through deep, multiple-year price declines. The Senate bill contains only the revenue loss program, overriding the objections of Southern rice and peanut growers who have traditionally relied more heavily on price support programs.

The two chambers are in a race to reach a compromise before Sept. 30, when the current farm bill expires.

House GOP leaders have shown little enthusiasm for taking up the farm bill because of resistance from conservatives to the bill's price tag, but the Agriculture Committee's chairman, Rep. Frank Lucas, R-Okla., and top Democrat, Rep. Collin Peterson of Minnesota, stressed its importance.

Lucas said the bill, which is the result of two years' work, "is reform-minded, fiscally responsible policy that is equitable for farmers and ranchers in all regions." Peterson said that by failing to act before the September deadline, "We jeopardize one of the economic bright spots of our nation's fragile economy."

Boating experts say NY yacht overcrowded; 3 dead

OYSTER BAY, N.Y. (AP)—A yacht that capsized with 27 friends and family aboard on an outing to watch Fourth of July fireworks was severely overcrowded and doomed to tip over, safety experts said Thursday as the skipper blamed the tragedy on a wave that came out of the dark.

Three children died after becoming trapped Wednesday night in the cabin of the 34-foot vessel off Oyster Bay, on the north shore of Long Island.

Sal Aureliano, who was at the helm of the Candi I, told TV's News12 Long Island that he saw two lightning bolts and then a wave suddenly hit.

"It turned the boat around," he said, his voice cracking. "It just turned the boat. I didn't see it. It was dark. I didn't see it."

Aureliano's nephew David Aureliano, 12, and two girls, 11-year-old Harley Treanor and 8-year-old Victoria Gaines, died. The 24 other passengers, adults and children, were rescued from the water, mostly by fellow boaters, and were not seriously hurt.

SOURCE: ESRI AP

"The next thing I know, we're turning, and we just kept turning, and everybody was in the water. It was chaos," said Aureliano, who didn't answer the door to The Associated Press.

The cause of the accident was under investigation, but it could have been the weather, overcrowding, the wake from another vessel or a combination of factors, said Nassau County Detective Lt. John Azzata. The area was crowded with boaters watching the fireworks, he said.

The Silverton yacht, built in 1984 but purchased recently, was under 60 feet of water Thursday, and officials worked to raise it. The yacht company filed for bankruptcy in April, and no one was available to say what the maximum number aboard should be.

The boat's owner is Kevin Treanor, said attorney James Mercante, who was hired by an insurance company to represent him. Mercante said he had not spoken with Treanor but emphasized Treanor wasn't the yacht's operator.

Telephone calls to Treanor's home and work telephones went unanswered Thursday night.

Police and the Coast Guard would not say how many of those aboard were adults and how many were children. Safety experts said most boats have a manufacturer's plate that lists capacity by number of adults and by total weight. So theoretically, a boat could safely handle more passengers if some were children.

Phil Cusumano, a Boston-based safety instructor and yacht captain with 35 years of experience, said there is no question the boat was badly overloaded. He said he would limit a vessel of that size to six adults. Other boating sites suggested a maximum of 15 passengers.

"Twenty-seven is just crazy," Cusumano said. "I wouldn't dream of doing that. I wouldn't do it at the dock, much less take it out on the water. It would tip over with the first turn."

Zimmerman bail set at $1M

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Using words like "false testimony" and "misled," a judge granted $1 million bail Thursday for neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman, but questioned his honesty and suggested he had plotted to leave the country when he was out of jail the first time.

Circuit Judge Kenneth Lester referred to Zimmerman with words like "conceal" and "flee" more than a dozen times in an eight-page order that lets him out of jail while he awaits his second-degree murder trial in the shooting of Trayvon Martin.

Zimmerman

The judge's doubts could hurt a Zimmerman attempt to dismiss the case by claiming he shot Martin in self-defense, a possible motion based on Florida's "stand your ground" law, experts said.

"Mr. Zimmerman is not held in any high esteem by this court," said Karin Moore, a law professor at Florida A&M University College of Law. "I think that could matter if there is a `stand your ground' hearing ... It's a matter of credibility. There is no one else to testify to support the self-defense claim."

Lester had revoked Zimmerman's $150,000 bond last month after prosecutors said Zimmerman and his wife misled the court about how much money they had during an April bond hearing and failed to disclose he had a second passport after turning in one passport to the court.

"Under any definition, the defendant has flaunted the system," Lester said. "Although there is no record of flight to avoid prosecution, this court finds that circumstances indicate that the defendant was preparing to flee to avoid prosecution but such plans were thwarted."

The judge set much stricter bail terms than those established during Zimmerman's April hearing, addressing concerns that he would flee. The 28-year-old must stay in Seminole County—he was allowed to leave Florida after his first release. He must be electronically monitored, can't open a bank account, obtain a passport or set foot on the grounds of the local airport. He has a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew.

ACROSS THE NATION

Fired Fla. lifeguard offered job back, says no

HALLANDALE BEACH, Fla. (AP)—The Florida lifeguard who was fired after leaving his post to help rescue a swimmer outside his zone was offered his job back but has decided not to take it. Tomas Lopez said he was offered an apology and the chance to return to work, but that he would prefer to pursue other opportunities instead. "It's not out of spite or anything like that," Lopez said. "It's not I dislike the company. It's just I'd rather continue on in my life, finish my schooling, and get on with my life. And find another job." Jeff Ellis, head of the company that provides lifeguarding services at Hallandale Beach, said Lopez was fired too quickly, and that no area of the beach was left unattended while he went to assist a distressed swimmer, according to the South Florida Sun-Sentinel.

Md. police: Boy, 12, being charged with murder

PALMER PARK, Md. (AP)—Police in a Washington, D.C., suburb say a 12-year-old boy is being charged with second-degree murder in the beating death of a 2-year-old foster child living with his family. The boy is being charged as a juvenile and his name is not being released. Spokeswoman Julie Parker of the Prince George's County, Md., police says the boy's father called 911 Tuesday night to report the girl was unresponsive. The man performed CPR on the child, but she was pronounced dead at a hospital. Parker says an autopsy confirmed the child, identified as Aniyah Batchelor, died of blunt force trauma. The 12-year-old, who lives in Fort Washington, was charged Wednesday and made his first appearance in court Thursday. He is being held at the Cheltenham Youth Facility.

Milder weather helps fire crews in upper Rockies

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—Firefighters took advantage of a lull in searing heat and shifting winds in Wyoming and Montana on Thursday to attack wildfires that have charred thousands of acres and forced dozens of residents to flee their homes. Temperatures in the mid-80s, higher humidity and calm winds aided crews battling the 95-square-mile Oil Creek fire just northwest of Newcastle, a town of about 3,500 near northeast Wyoming's Black Hills. About 25 families were evacuated from Newcastle's outskirts. The fire was 40 percent contained.

Asia

Taiwan photographer's crusade: Doomed shelter dogs

TAOYUAN, Taiwan (AP)—The photographer gingerly places a small, mixed-breed puppy on a platform in his makeshift studio at an animal shelter in northern Taiwan. The dog looks about 2 months old, with alert, trusting eyes and a shiny black coat.

Tou Chih-kang captures expressions, personality. He creates the kind of photos that any pet owner would love to have.

This puppy has no owner and will not get one. Once its photo shoot is over, it will be taken away by vets to be put down.

Tou has been recording the last moments of canines at the Taoyuan Animal Shelter for two years. He has captured the images of some 400 dogs, most of which were pets abandoned by their owners. To him the work is distressing, but he's trying to spread a message of responsibility.

"I believe something should not be told but should be felt," says Tou, a thick-bodied 37-year-old with an air of quiet confidence. "And I hope these images will arouse the viewers to contemplate and feel for these unfortunate lives, and understand the inhumanity we the society are putting them through."

His photographs are redolent of the kind of formal portraits—of people—that were taken 100 years ago, designed to bestow dignity and prestige upon the subject. In many of the dog portraits, the animals are placed at angles that make them look almost human.

AP

In this photo taken on Monday, April 9, 2012, Taiwanese photographer Tou Chih-kang greets a dog scheduled to be euthanized later in the day at a government-run shelter in Taoyuan, northern Taiwan.

This year Taiwanese authorities will euthanize an estimated 80,000 stray dogs. Animal-welfare advocates say the relatively widespread nature of the phenomenon—Taiwan's human population is only 23 million—reflects the still immature nature of the island's dog-owning culture and the belief among some of its majority Buddhist population that dogs are reincarnated humans who behaved badly in a previous life.

It would seem, judging by the many stores in Taiwan that sell fancy dog clothes and other baubles, as if Taiwanese fawn over their animals, and some do. But others abandon pets to the streets once their initial enthusiasm cools.

"Animals are seen just as playthings, not to be taken seriously," says Grace Gabriel, Asia regional director of the Massachusetts-based International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Activists say that some 70 percent of dogs in Taiwanese shelters are killed after a 12-day waiting period, despite government efforts to find them homes. Gabriel says dogs in U.S. shelters are less likely to be euthanized, though millions of cats continue to be put down there each year.

The dogs who wind up in Taoyuan are picked up by roving patrols, funded by local governments, of workers equipped with large nets.

The dogs come in all sizes and shapes. Some are young and active, others grizzled, listless and battered. After Tou photographs them, veterinary workers take them for a brief turn around a grassy courtyard before leading them into a small, clinical-looking room where they are killed by lethal injection.

Tou, who uses the professional name Tou Yun-fei, says he began his project because the Taiwanese media were not paying enough attention to the dogs' plight. He says he doesn't believe in having pets, but the problem had long plagued his conscience.

He says that while some of his friends refuse to even look at his photographs, others say the images taught them to take pet ownership more seriously.

A handful of the some 40,000 dog pictures Tou has taken are due to be exhibited this August in his first full-scale show, at the Fine Arts Museum in the southern Taiwanese city of Kaohsiung.

South Korea plans to resume whaling for research

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea plans to resume hunting whales for research purposes, officials said Thursday, drawing immediate protests from non-whaling nations and environment groups that suspect the plans may be a cover for commercial whaling.

South Korean officials conveyed the plan to the International Whaling Commission during an IWC meeting this week in Panama, according to Seoul's Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

The whaling would be aimed only at studying the types and amounts of fish whales eat as fishermen complain that an increasing number of whales are consuming large amounts of fish stocks, ministry officials said.

The IWC gives member states sovereign rights to scientific whaling but South Korea will still give up its whaling plans if the international organization rejects them, the officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media.

Environmental groups decried the South Korean plans as a back-door effort to make the country only the fourth to allow commercial whaling, which has been banned since 1986. Various exceptions have allowed Japan, Iceland and Norway to hunt whales anyway. Indigenous groups in several countries also whale as allowed under international rules.

Japan claims its hunts are for research purposes, though the meat from the killed whales mostly ends up in restaurants, stores and school lunches. South Korean officials said they haven't determined what to do with the whale meat following the studies.

The leaders of Australia and New Zealand quickly condemned South Korea's plans and said they would raise diplomatic protests, and even close ally the United States chimed in with criticism.

"We think it would be a terrible step in the wrong direction," New Zealand Prime Minister John Key said during a visit to Sydney.

Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard told a news conference that she was "very disappointed" at the South Korean announcement. "We are completely opposed to whaling, there's no excuse for scientific whaling," she said.

Japan powered by nuclear energy again, blamed anew

TOKYO (AP)—Nuclear power returned to Japan's energy mix for the first time in two months Thursday, hours before a parliamentary panel blamed the government's cozy relations with the industry for the meltdowns that prompted the mass shutdown of the nation's reactors.

Though the report echoes other investigations into last year's disaster at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, it could fuel complaints that Japan is trying to restart nuclear reactors without doing enough to avoid a repeat. Thursday's resumption of operations at a reactor in Ohi, in western Japan, already had been hotly contested.

Government officials and the utility that runs the Ohi plant announced last month that the No. 3 reactor had passed stringent safety checks and needed to be brought back online to ward off blackouts during the high-demand summer months. Another Ohi reactor, No. 4, is set to restart later this month and the government hopes to restart more of Japan's 50 working reactors as soon as possible.

"We have finally taken this first step," said Hideki Toyomatsu, vice president of Kansai Electric Power Co., which operates the Ohi plant. "But it is just a first step."

The reactor is the first to be restarted since last year's devastating tsunami inundated the Fukushima plant, setting off meltdowns in three reactors in the world's worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl in 1986. All of Japan's reactors were gradually taken offline for maintenance or safety checks, and in early May the last reactor shut down, leaving the country without nuclear-generated electricity for the first time since 1970.

Thursday's report said the Fukushima disaster was "man-made" because it should have been foreseen and avoided. It said that since at least 2006, Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency and plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co.—or TEPCO—knew the risk of a total power outage at Fukushima Dai-ichi in case of a major tsunami. The report accused both of "intentionally" postponing safety measures to avoid reactor stoppages.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan, Taiwan activist visits fuel isle dispute

TOKYO (AP)—Activists from Taiwan and a local Japanese politician have made unauthorized visits to islands at the center of a heated territorial dispute. Japan's coast guard says it spotted and warned a Taiwanese boat carrying activists near one of the islands on Wednesday. The following day, a Coast Guard vessel sighted two Japanese men swimming ashore on another of the islands. One of the men is an assembly member in Ishigaki, a nearby city in Japan's Okinawa prefecture. The coast guard says the two remained on the island briefly before returning to Ishigaki on Friday. The uninhabited islands called the Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in Chinese are claimed by Taiwan, China and Japan. Surrounded by rich fishing grounds, the islands are a frequent flash point in diplomatic relations.

China arrests 802 for alleged child trafficking

BEIJING (AP)—China's Ministry of Public Security says police have arrested 802 people on suspicion of child trafficking and rescued 181 children in a major operation spanning 15 provinces. The ministry says in a statement posted on its official website Friday that the operation broke up two trafficking rings and that the ring leaders were arrested. It says the national operation was set up earlier this year after local police spotted trafficking signs, including frequent appearances of out-of-town pregnant women in a clinic in north China's Hebei province.

Panda born at Tokyo zoo for 1st time in 24 years

TOKYO (AP)—A panda has been born at a Tokyo zoo for the first time in 24 years. Tokyo's popular Ueno Zoo says the panda was born Thursday to Shin Shin. The 7-year-old mother was brought to Japan from China just before Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami last year. The baby's gender was not immediately known. Zoo officials say the pair appear to be in good health but will be monitored around the clock. It was the first panda born at the zoo since 1988 and was conceived naturally. Giant pandas have a low birth rate and artificial insemination has been common in captive breeding programs.

World

US, partners to push for global sanctions on Assad

PARIS (AP)—The United States and its European and Arab partners will threaten the Assad regime with global sanctions if it fails to quickly implement a Syrian peace plan that includes the appointment of a new interim government, U.S. officials said Thursday on the eve of an 80-nation conference.

The threat isn't new but officials believe it may carry added bite due to Russia and China's recent willingness to discuss Syrian transition strategies after 16 months of brutal crackdowns and civil war. The minimum hope is that the two veto-wielding U.N. Security Council powers might back elusive international economic sanctions if President Bashar Assad ignores the call for peace.

■ ■ ■ ■

LONDON (AP)—The secret-spilling group WikiLeaks said Thursday it was in the process of publishing material from 2.4 million Syrian emails—many of which it said came from official government accounts.

WikiLeaks' Sarah Harrison told journalists at London's Frontline Club that the emails reveal interactions between the Syrian government and Western companies, although she declined to go into much further detail.

Harrison quoted WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange as saying that "the material is embarrassing to Syria, but it is also embarrassing to Syria's external opponents."

■ ■ ■ ■

Diplomats at the United Nations already are working on a document that would demand restrictions on oil and other commercial business with Syria's government if it refuses to abide by U.N. mediator Kofi Annan's plan for a cease-fire and the creation of a caretaker government.

AP

This citizen journalist image provided by Shaam News Network and taken on Tuesday, July 3, 2012, purports to show a protest against violence by the Syrian government, in a suburb of Damascus, Syria.

A U.N. resolution could be introduced next week, according to American officials who previewed Friday's "Friends of the Syrian People" gathering in Paris on condition of anonymity. But with neither Moscow nor Beijing in attendance, much will remain dependent on persuading the two reluctant powers to pressure Assad into action.

They've twice stood in the way of U.N. condemnations of Assad's government. And Moscow, whose sole naval base in the Mediterranean Sea is in Syria, maintains close military cooperation with Damascus.

The objections of Russia and China also effectively watered down Annan's blueprint for transition at a conference in Geneva last weekend. It grants Assad an effective veto over any interim government candidate he opposes. The opposition would gain the same power.

The formula could lead to a stalemate that plays into Assad's hands, leaving him in power while his security forces persist in what Western nations and human rights groups have described as gross human rights violations. Activists reported at least 26 people killed across Syria on Thursday in clashes between troops and rebels and government shelling across the country. They say more than 14,000 people have been killed since the revolt began.

The path to a post-Assad Syria is complicated and treacherous.

Iraq warns al-Qaida flowing into Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Iraq asserted Thursday that al-Qaida insurgents are streaming out of the country to carry out attacks in Syria, an ominous development as the Syrian conflict enflames an already hostile region.

Extremists have been making inroads as the 16-month-old uprising against President Bashar Assad grinds on, bringing a dangerous new element to the forces fighting to topple the regime.

The militants are taking advantage of the chaos and the violence gripping Syria, which the head of the country's U.N. observer mission said Thursday had reached "unprecedented levels."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said authorities are worried that extremists could gain another foothold in Syria, posing a new threat to the stability of the entire region.

"We have solid information and intelligence that members of al-Qaida's terrorist network have gone to Syria," he told reporters in Baghdad. Zebari did not elaborate or provide details but said his main concern is "extremist, terrorist groups taking root in neighboring countries."

It's a turnaround from the height of the Iraqi war six years ago, when weapons and fighters would cross from Syria to aid fellow Sunnis in Iraq. Zebari said Baghdad has for years warned Damascus about al-Qaida traffic between Iraq and Syria.

In February, al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri called on Muslims from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey to join the Syrian uprising, which began in March 2011 with mass protests inspired by the Arab Spring, then grew into a bloody insurgency as the opposition took up arms to fight a fierce government crackdown.

Rebel fighters have launched increasingly deadly attacks on regime targets, and several suicide bombings that bear the hallmark of al-Qaida in Iraq indicate extremists are joining the fray.

Activists say more than 14,000 people have been killed since the revolt began. Syria severely restricts the media in the country, making it difficult to gain a credible account of events on the ground.

An al-Qaida-inspired group, the Al-Nusra front, has claimed responsibility for dozens of attacks across Syria. On Tuesday, the SITE monitoring group, which tracks militant chatter on the Internet, said the Al-Nusra Front released statements on extremist websites in late June saying the string of attacks were to avenge the killings of Syrians by the government.

Opposition activists and the rebel Free Syrian Army deny having any links to terrorism and say they do not have the desire or the capabilities to carry out massive suicide bombings and other al-Qaida-style attacks. But dozens of rebel groups are operating in Syria with little or no coordination between them.

Military defections also have been on the rise.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and other opposition websites said Thursday that Brig. Gen. Manaf Tlass—a member of the elite Republican Guards and a son of a former defense minister—reportedly had defected and fled to Turkey. If confirmed, the defection would be a major blow to Assad.

Pena Nieto's win confirmed by Mexico vote count

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico took a big step toward resolving its contested presidential election with the official confirmation of the victory by Enrique Pena Nieto, the candidate seeking to return the former autocratic ruling party to power after a 12-year hiatus.

The count by the country's electoral authority will almost certainly become the target of legal challenges by leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who alleges Pena Nieto's Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, engaged in vote-buying that illegally tilted millions of votes.

The accusations began surfacing in June, but sharpened early this week as thousands of people rushed to grocery stores on the outskirts of Mexico City to redeem pre-paid gift cards worth about 100 pesos ($7.50). Many said they got the cards from supporters of PRI prior to Sunday's elections.

Simply giving away such gifts is not illegal under Mexican electoral law, as long as the expense is reported to electoral authorities. But giving gifts to influence votes is a crime, though is not generally viewed as grounds for overturning an election.

The Federal Electoral Institute reported late Thursday that with nearly 100 percent of the ballot boxes counted, about half of them double-checked due to the possibility of fraud, Pena Nieto had more than 38 percent of the vote and Lopez Obrador was second with more than 31 percent. Pena Nieto led by more than 3.3 million votes.

Lopez Obrador has not specified exactly how many votes he believes were bought.

The current governing party candidate, who came in third, also said earlier in the day that campaign spending violations had marred the vote, although she stopped short of challenging the legitimacy of the outcome.

The complaint by National Action Party candidate Josefina Vazquez Mota nonetheless added weight to growing accusations that Pena Nieto benefited from vote-buying schemes.

The final vote count must be certified in September by the Federal Electoral Tribunal. The tribunal has declined to overturn previously contested elections, including a 2006 presidential vote that was far closer than Sunday's.

"We need electoral authorities to conduct a detailed review of campaign spending that obviously exceeded legal limits, and that was also associated with vote buying," Vazquez Mota said. "In this election there were clear circumstances of inequity that had a decisive effect on the vote results."

WORLD BRIEFS

Aide: Palestinian leader wants more on Arafat

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Digging up Yasser Arafat's bones may offer the best shot at learning if the legendary Palestinian leader was poisoned, as many of his old comrades-in-arms claim, but Palestinian officials signaled Thursday they're not rushing into an autopsy. Arafat's 2004 death remains shrouded in mystery, and this week's findings by Switzerland's Institute of Radiation Physics—that belongings linked to Arafat contained an elevated level of a radioactive agent—have revived speculation about foul play. However, the institute said more tests are needed, prompting Arafat's widow Suha to demand that her husband's remains, buried under a glass-and-stone mausoleum in his former West Bank compound, be exhumed.

UN council threatens sanctions on Mali fighters

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council threatened sanctions against Islamist fighters in northern Mali and condemned the destruction of sacred tombs in the ancient city of Timbuktu, but did not authorize an intervention force in a resolution passed Thursday. The council also warned of a worsening humanitarian situation and increasing cases of hostage-taking by terrorists in the landlocked West African nation. It demanded the restoration of constitutional order and an end to hostilities following a March coup that allowed al-Qaida-linked Islamists and Tuareg rebels to seize the county's north. The resolution also called on member states to help the council blacklist anyone associated with al-Qaida.

2 ex-Argentine dictators convicted in baby thefts

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Former Argentine dictator Jorge Rafael Videla was convicted and sentenced to 50 years Thursday for a systematic plan to steal babies from prisoners who were kidnapped, tortured and killed during the military junta's war on leftist dissenters three decades ago. Argentina's last dictator, Reynaldo Bignone, also was convicted and got 15 years. "This is an historic day. Today legal justice has been made real—never again the justice of one's own hands, which the repressors were known for," prominent rights activist Tati Almeida said outside the courthouse, where a jubilant crowd watched on a big screen and cheered each sentence.

YoungStyle

In this picture taken on Friday, June 29, 2012, a young Israeli Arab boxer cries after he lost a fight during the Israel's National Youth Boxing Championship at the Arab village of Arabe, northern Israel.

AP

In this picture taken on Wednesday, June 27, 2012, an Israeli coach talks to a young boxer prior to his fight during the Israel's National Youth Boxing Championship at the Arab village of Kfar Yasif, northern Israel.

AP

Boxing connects young ISRAELI ARABS AND JEWS

ACRE, Israel (AP)—The bell clangs, the fight starts and the boxers come at each other. On one side is a 13-year-old Arab boy from northern Israel. His opponent comes from a Jewish town.

The Jewish fighter from the blue corner pushes his Arab adversary against the ropes before pummeling him with a barrage of punches.

Jews and Arabs have been fighting each other for decades, so boxing may seem like a strange way to build peace between the two—but that's what the Israel Boxing Association aims for.

AP

In this picture taken on Thursday, June 28, 2012, a young Israeli boxer waits for his fight during the Israel's National Youth Boxing Championship at the Arab village of Kfar Yasif, northern Israel.

"It's important for me for boxing to be a bridge of meeting between young people, between Jews and Arabs in Israel," said IBA General Director William Shihada. "The boxers know each other and train together."

Shihada oversaw Israel's National Youth Boxing Championship last week in three cities over four days. In the final event, nearly 50 competitors in their early teens gathered in a hot community gym in the northern Israeli coastal city of Acre to fight their last bouts of the season.

"It's difficult because it's the final match," said 13-year-old Muhammad Khamisi, minutes before stepping into the ring. "But I'm ready."

Khamisi, who has been training since age 11, comes from the Israeli Arab town of Kafr Kanna in the north. He played down the conflict between Israeli Arabs and Jews, saying, "we're all just friends playing together."

Outside the ring, there were many signs of friendship. Competitors chatted at ringside, bumped boxing gloves before the first round, and shook hands or patted each other on the back after a hard-fought match.

Boxing is a minor sport in Israel. The IBA reports about 2,000 active members throughout the country. By contrast, the Israel Football Association represents some 30,000 soccer players.

"There isn't much awareness about boxing in Israel," said coach Ismaeel Hamad, who has trained fighters in the Arab city of Nazareth for seven years. "The poor go to boxing, while the rich go to football, basketball. Only the children of poor people box."

The sport's appeal to the economically disadvantaged may explain its popularity among Israeli Arabs, who routinely face discrimination in the job and housing markets and make up something of an underclass in Israel. Israeli Arabs constitute roughly one-fifth of Israel's 8 million inhabitants but produce about 70 percent of its young boxers, according to IBA estimates.

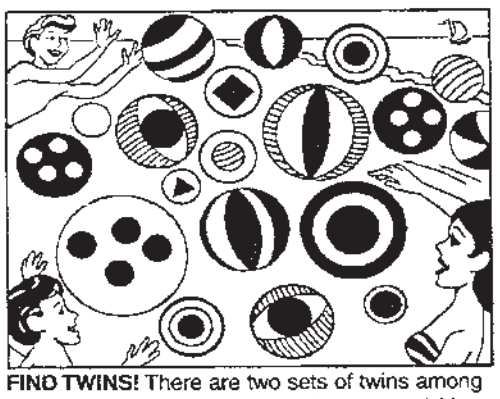
Khamisi lost his match to 14-year-old Davidov Dolev, but the two did not show any ill will after the fight. "(Boxing's) not violent, it's a sport," said Dolev, who will now represent Israel at the Youth World Boxing Championships in October. "It's just in the ring, not outside."

Boxing provides a unique chance for young Arab and Jewish competitors to meet in the ring as equals, equipped with helmets and gloves and playing under the same set of rules.

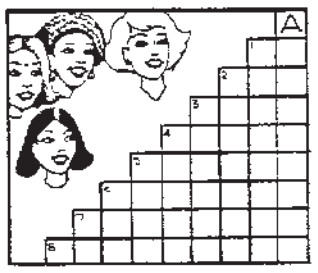
"It's not important what the name of the boxer is. You can be Moshe, you can be Muhammad, you can be Dmitri," Shihada said. "We go to Europe as one team."

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



FIND TWINS! There are two sets of twins among the various beach balls above. See how quickly you can find both sets.



IN CROWD! Insert a consonant into the name of a desert animal and find the name of a California seaside resort. Into this name, insert a vowel and find a possible choice of center in a box of assorted chocolates. Time: 1 min.

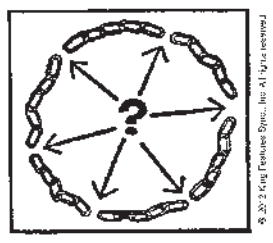
Camel, Carmel, caramel.

LINK-UPS! This classic poser continues to present a challenge. We have six segments of chain containing five links each, at right. We would like to join these segments into one continuous chain by opening and closing the fewest number of links in the shortest amount of time.

If it takes one minute to open a link, and one minute to close one, in how few minutes can we complete the circle?

Try puzzling it out.

Ten minutes — by opening all five links of one segment and using each link to connect ends of the others.



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ADD-A-LETTER WORD POSER

Add a letter in each step progressively at left, rearranging letters as necessary, to form new words in accord with the following definitions:

1. First letter of alphabet (A, in place).
2. In attendance.
3. Occupied a chair.
4. Hollywood status.
5. Gaze steadily at a person or thing.
6. Metal frames used in fireplaces, etc.
7. Unfamiliar
8. Police officers next below captains or lieutenants.

Time limit: 2 minutes.

1. A. 2. At 3. Sat. 4. Star. 5. Stare. 6. Grates. 7. Strange. 8. Sergeant.

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was double Nobel Prize-winning chemist and peace activist Linus Pauling who made the following sage observation: "The best way to have a good idea is to have lots of ideas."

■ The acre as a unit of measurement has been with us for quite some time. Originally, an acre was considered to be the amount of land that could be tilled in a single day by one man behind one ox.

■ If you've seen the movie "The Wizard of Oz," you might remember that in the Emerald City, the horses were a variety of bright colors. No special effects there—the set designers simply rubbed the animals with Jell-O powder to achieve the bright hues. Those scenes had to be shot very quickly, though, since the horses had a tendency to lick off their colors.

■ If you spent some part of the 1980s trying to puzzle out a solution to a Rubik's Cube, you may be surprised to learn that the world record, held by Frenchman Edouard Chambon, is just 9.18 seconds. And it was set in 2008.

■ You may not have learned about it in school, but during the summer and early autumn of 1859, the United States and the British became involved in a conflict known as The Pig War. In June of that year, a pig on American soil was shot by a British infantryman in Canada. In response to the provocation, the American militia camped out on the border for four months, until the British finally apologized. No lives were lost (other than the pig's).

■ Those who study such things say that the lightning on Jupiter is 1,000 times more powerful than the lightning here on Earth.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "A person who trusts no one can't be trusted."—Jerome Blattner

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MAGIC MAZE ● U.S. SECRETARIES OF STATE

O L H E B X U R O L I E B Y V
S Q N K Z K H E B Y W T R O L
J C L I N T O N G E B Y W U R
P N K S I G L D O B Z X V S T
Q M U S K I E U O S M F R K H
I G O I S E C C H R I C E A G
Y W U N U S Q P N S Y D K I I
N L J G R H F E H A C A A Y R
X L L E W O P V J U V H B M B
S Q P R N S E L L U D M K J L
H F E C B Z Y X V U T R Q P A

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Baker	Haig	Monroe	Rusk
Clinton	Jay	Muskie	Shultz
Dulles	Kissinger	Powell	Vance
Fish	Madison	Rice	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		17
−		+		÷	
	÷		+		5
×		×		×	
	−		×		21
15		14		14	

1 2 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

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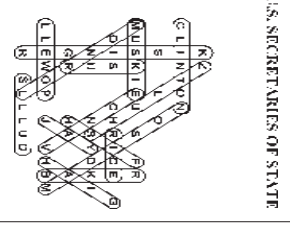
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



U.S. SECRETARIES OF STATE

GO FIGURE ANSWER

	14		14		15
21	7	×	2	−	5
	×		×		×
5	4	+	6	÷	6
	÷		+		−
17	8	+	1	÷	9

Canine influenza is very contagious

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: What is dog flu? A friend at the dog park told me that I need to ask the veterinarian about getting my dog vaccinated against it.—Gladys in Dallas

DEAR GLADYS: Canine influenza, or dog flu, is a new illness that was first documented in 2004. Since then, it has been found in dogs in 38 states, with more than 100 cases recorded in Texas.

Dogs that become ill with canine influenza have symptoms that include runny nose, coughing and a fever. Just as in humans, the illness can become very serious because dogs can get dehydrated, or can develop a secondary infection like pneumonia -- conditions that can be deadly.

Furthermore, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, canine influenza is highly contagious and can be easily transmitted between dogs. (It can't be transmitted to humans.) An information release from Jefferson Animal Hospital in Baton Rouge, La. says that many infected dogs appear healthy at first, meaning it's more likely that an ill dog will spread influenza to other dogs at meeting places like dog parks, doggie daycare, and grooming and boarding facilities. The really depressing fact about this flu is that almost every dog exposed to it will become ill unless they're vaccinated, because it's such a new virus that dogs have no immunity to it.

The best way to prevent the spread of canine influenza is to get your dog vaccinated. Contact your veterinarian about the availability and cost of this vaccination. Learn more about this illness at http://www.doginfluenza.com.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Go crazy about books at your town library

Some things in life are still free—like your neighborhood library. If you haven't dusted off your library card in awhile, put it into action this summer, step inside a local branch and be amazed by the innovative activities and services you'll find.

You'll likely discover that frequenting your library as part of your weekly routine is a healthy habit that will keep minds of all ages sharp all summer long.

Check out these "free of charge" ideas:

Storytime

Contact your library for dates and times when you and your preschoolers or grandkids can gather with neighbors to enjoy readings of engaging picture books. Singing, acting and crafts often are included.

"Afterward, look for books based on a particular theme," suggests Jeanne O'Grady, program librarian for Santa Cruz, Calif., public libraries. "For example, choose a topic such as 'food' and check out a menu of fun, nutrition-related books with appetizing titles such as 'Cucumber Soup' by Vicki Leigh Krudwig, 'Little Pea' by Amy Rosenthal and 'Rah, Rah, Radishes!: A Vegetable Chant' by April Pulley Sayre."

Once you read one of the books, enjoy preparing a snack or meal using the book for inspiration. "Reinforce new vocabulary you have just read by narrating what you are actually doing as you prep the ingredients and eat the food," she says. "Kids simply can't resist the sounds of fun words like asparagus, artichoke and macaroni."

E-books

The list of library e-book titles for iPads, Nook and other readers is growing. Go online, check out your choice and download free of charge.

Pre-trip prep

Before you leave on vacation, find useful travel books, maps, magazines and conversational language-learning CDs to enrich your travel experience. For long, cross-country car trips, don't forget to check out audio books before you hit the road.

Volunteer!

Inquire about volunteer opportunities at the library for your preteen or teenage children. They may be asked to assist with crafts and puppet shows, monitor summer reading programs and assist in searching for titles on the computer.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Good Housekeeping

Keep water away from your home's foundation

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

Water is good for trees, shrubs and many other plant forms.

It's not, however, always good for your house, especially when your property stays wet and does not drain properly.

"Water is the number one cause of damage to the homes we live in," says Jamison Brown with AmeriSpec Home Inspection Service in southeastern Virginia—www.amerispec.net/brown.

"Excessive water around and under the footprint of the home can produce a host of unwanted consequences—fungal growth and structural damage."

To protect your home, the soil around the home should slope away from the foundation on all sides.

Typically, the recommended slope is one inch per foot for at least six feet away from the home. This rule of thumb is not always possible for hard surfaces like drives and walks. However, with these impervious surfaces, water can keep moving away from the home even if the slope is less.

With the passage of time, the presence of shrubs and household outdoor pets can result in a change in the slope around the home, says Brown. Homeowners should annually review the ground around the home to ensure the gardening activities, installation of mulch or raised beds—and the comfortable spot your dog lays to rest in—have not resulted in a low spot or a slope, which is pitched toward the home.

If the lot slopes toward a home, a swale, or a shallow ditch, should be installed to prevent surface water from flowing against the foundation. A swale should carry surface water around the home and away on the surface of the soil or to a catch basin that will carry the water via an underground drainage pipe.

A French drain can also help get water into the ground where it can quickly disperse. The drain can be as simple as a huge hole dug and filled with rock, or it can be as sophisticated as a system of interior foundation drains that feed into a sump pump and exterior flow system.

Gutters and downspouts are also important means for getting water away from your home's foundation, especially when the structure does not have substantial overhang. For gutters to function properly, they must be firmly attached to the eave of the roof; all seams must be sealed and the gutters must slope toward the downspout with a slope of one inch in 17 feet, says Brown.

A good rule of thumb—one downspout should not drain more than 35 feet of gutter. The gutters must be clean to prevent clogging.

The gutters must be clean to prevent clogging.

THIS IS A HAMMER

Replacing grill's propane regulator

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I picked up a used gas grill for free the other day. The only problem with it, as acknowledged by the owner, is that the hose connecting the regulator to the propane tank has a leak in it. Is this something I can fix easily? Paying for an expensive repair would kind of negate the "free" part of the deal. —Jake in San Diego

A: This should be a fairly easy repair, and not expensive at all. Replacement regulator and hose assemblies for most types of gas grills can be found at the home-improvement store for around $20.

First, make sure the propane tank (if it came with the grill) is completely shut off by turning the tank spigot clockwise until it is tightly closed. Set the grill's control knobs to the "off" position.

Remove the hose assembly by unscrewing the hose connections from the propane tank and the grill. You can use pliers if necessary on this step. If the connectors are stubborn, spray a bit of lubricating oil on them and allow to work for about five minutes before trying to unscrew them.

Take the regulator and hose assembly to the home-improvement store to match it up with the correct replacement part. If the grill didn't come with a propane tank, or if the accompanying tank is empty, now is also a good time to either purchase a propane tank or exchange the old one.

Back home, hook up the regulator assembly to the propane tank and to the grill. Do not use pliers at this point—hand-tighten the connections. Pliers can crack the plastic shell inside the connectors. Once the connectors are on straight, you can use pliers to gently tighten the connectors about a half-turn.

Next, test the connections for leaks. Mix dish soap and water until the solution is nice and frothy. Leaving the grill knobs in the "off" position, turn on the propane tank and drizzle the soapy water over each connection, including where the hoses connect to the regulator. (A sponge can make this task easier.)

If you see bubbles rising and popping fast at one of the connections, or if you smell gas, there's a leak. Shut off the propane tank and re-tighten the connections, then test again until the connections no longer leak.

HOME TIP: When grilling, only open the propane-tank valve 1/2 turn. This supplies enough gas to the burners, and makes emergency shut off very fast should you ever need to close the valve.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

WHAT'S COOKING

Grilled Sweet Potatoes

We steam and slice sweet potatoes, and then give them a turn on the grill to create this deliciously unexpected side dish.

2 1/2 pounds sweet potatoes, peeled if you like
1 tablespoon olive oil
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
Parsley, for garnish

1. Prepare outdoor grill for covered, direct grilling on medium.

2. In 5- to 6-quart saucepot or Dutch oven, place collapsible steamer basket and 1 inch water. Cover saucepot; heat water to boiling on high on range top. Cut sweet potatoes into 1/2-inch-thick diagonal slices.

3. Place potato slices in steamer basket; reduce heat to low. Cover saucepot and simmer 12 to 15 minutes or until potatoes are just fork-tender; do not overcook. (Potatoes can be steamed a day ahead and refrigerated until ready to grill.)

4. Transfer potato slices to jellyroll pan; brush with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper to season both sides. Place potato slices on hot grill grate. Cover grill and cook potatoes 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly charred and tender, turning slices over once with large metal spatula. Transfer potatoes to serving bowl; garnish with parsley. Makes 4 side-dish servings.

Gourmet Grilled Angel Food Cake

Store-bought angel food cake goes gourmet when it's grilled and topped with sweetened balsamic-soaked strawberries.

1 1/2 pounds strawberries, hulled and each cut in half, or into quarters if large
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
1 tablespoon sugar
1 (9-ounce) store-bought angel food cake
Whipped cream (optional)

1. In medium bowl, toss strawberries with balsamic vinegar and sugar. Let stand at room temperature until sugar dissolves, at least 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

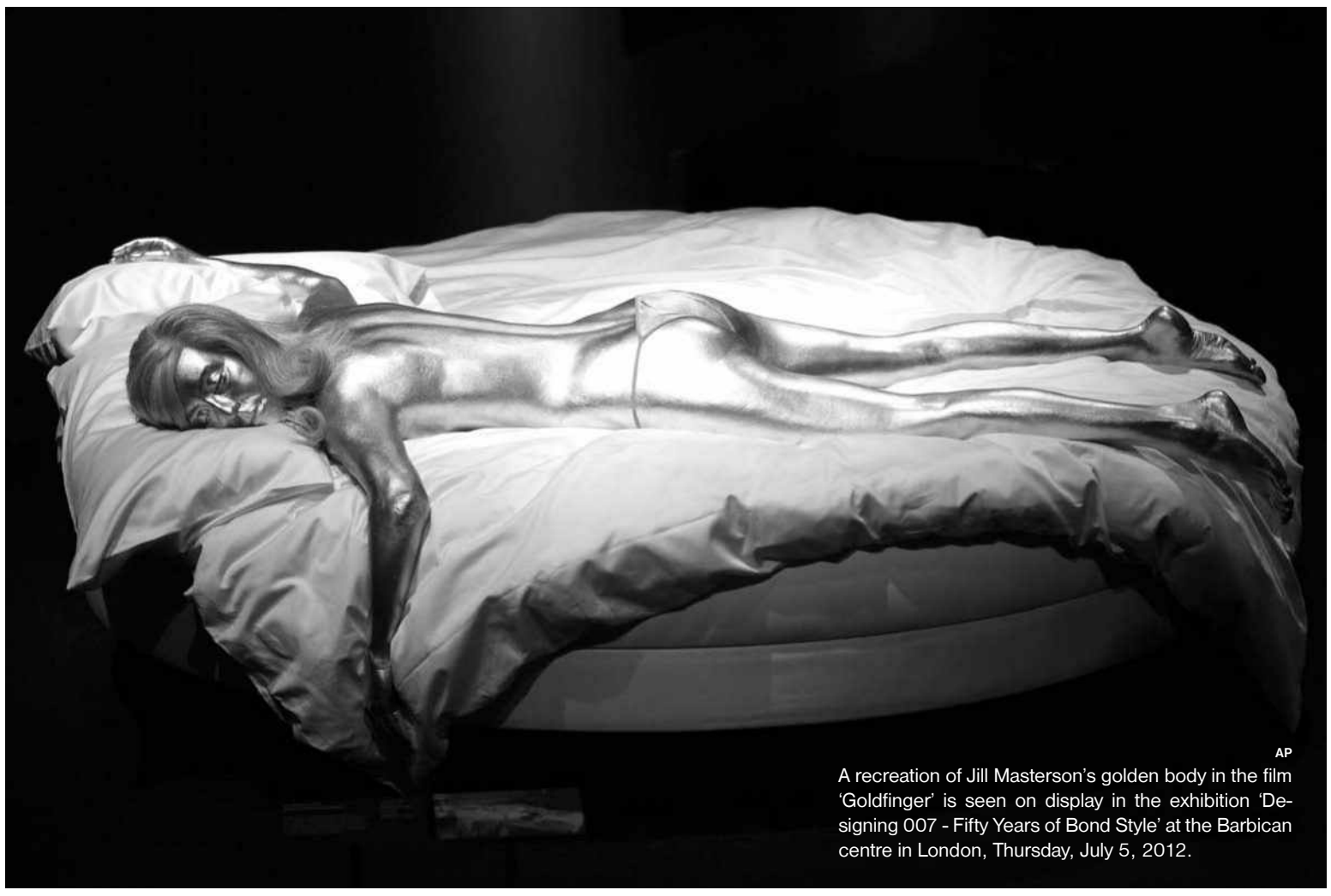
2. Meanwhile, prepare outdoor grill for direct grilling on medium. Cut angel food cake into 6 wedges.

3. Place cake on hot grill rack and cook 3 to 4 minutes or until lightly toasted on both sides, turning over once. Spoon strawberries with their juice onto 6 dessert plates. Place grilled cake on plates with strawberries; serve with whipped cream if you like. Serves 6.

In Celebration of His New Life
†Joseph Aldan Delos Reyes
Lovingly Known as "J.J. Onio"
Born: June 12, 1956 • Died: July 1, 2012
In His new life he now joins his:
Father: †Roman Manahane Delos Reyes
Mother: †Consolacion Aldan Delos Reyes
Mother in-law: †Margarita Camacho Muña
Brother: †Joseph Duenas Dela Rosa
Brothers in-law: †Olympio C. Muña, †Nicolas C. Muña, †Francisco C. Muña, and †Roman T. Villagomez
Sister in-law: †Levita Damaso Delos Reyes
His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Margarita Muña Delos Reyes
Children and Grand Children:
Rose Cecil Muña Delos Reyes and Sylvan M. Cabrera
Sylvan Jr., Consolacion Rose, Amelia Ann, and Margaret Estella Rose
Joseph Jr. Muña Delos Reyes and Michelle Tudela
Jeffrey Roman Muña Delos Reyes and Jean Castro
Margret Rose, Alexis Jade, and Jeffrey Roman Jr.
Natte Marie Kaneshi and Family
Julian Nicolas Muña Delos Reyes and Jeding Matagolai
Frankie Kaneshi
Roman Muña Delos Reyes and Roxanne Duenas
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
Antonio Aldan Delos Reyes
Thomas Aldan Delos Reyes and Arlene Muña
Frances Dela Rosa Pangelinan and Mark Pangelinan
Rudy Duenas Dela Rosa and Nora Dela Rosa
Vivian Dela Rosa Palacios and Mariano Palacios
Father in-law: Nicolas Q. Muña
Brothers and Sisters in-law:
Antonio C. Muña and Maria P. Muña
Cecilia M. Villagomez
Jesus C. Muña and Dorothy Muña
Jose C. Muña and Janet Muña
Maria M. McDill and Henry McDill
Cornelia C. Muña
Delfina C. Muña
Ana M. Sablan and Herman Sablan
Francisco C. Muña and Agnes Muña
Merced C. Muña and Isidro Sablan
Reared Son: Jerome San Agustin Reyes
He will always be remembered by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren and friends.
Daily Masses at 6:00pm, followed by the rosaries at St. Jude Church. On Monday, July 9, 2012, his remains will be transported from CHC Morgue at 9:00am to St. Jude Church. Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 11:00am and interment will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Lunch will follow at the residence of Mrs. Margarita Muña Delos Reyes.
The presence and prayers of all families and friends are greatly appreciated.
Margarita Muña Delos Reyes, Children and Grandchildren

Life & Style

007 exhibition looks at screen spy as style icon



AP
A recreation of Jill Masterson's golden body in the film 'Goldfinger' is seen on display in the exhibition 'Designing 007 - Fifty Years of Bond Style' at the Barbican centre in London, Thursday, July 5, 2012.

LONDON (AP)—If there's one thing James Bond has taught us it's that behind every great spy is a great tailor.

A new exhibition at London's Barbican Centre explores the style of the suave secret agent, displaying costumes, props, set pieces and design drawings from half a century of 007 films.

Assembled with help from the films' producer, EON Productions- which has a new Bond movie to promote in the fall—the exhibition includes the spy's tuxedos, Bond girl ball gowns and villains' vestments, as well as a selection of props and gadgets. There are also sketches by the films' influential set designer, Ken Adam, whose cavernous lairs and sleek space stations did much to create the movies' modernist luster.

The show is both a reflection of the remarkable staying power of Ian Fleming's fictional secret agent and a tribute to the British, European and American craftspeople and designers who have created the look of the quintessentially British icon.

"The films always attracted the greatest design talent," curator Bronwyn Cosgrave said Thursday. They ranged from the German-born Adam to Academy Award-winning costume designer Lindy Hemming, a Briton who helped put together the exhibition.

"In the beginning they didn't have the money—but they had the ingenuity," Cosgrave said.

The money came later, as the globally successful franchise sent Bond to exotic locations around the world—and eventually, in 1979's "Moonraker," into space.

Clips from the movies are screened throughout the exhibition, which includes items that have become mini-icons, from the white bikini worn by Ursula Andress in the first Bond film, "Dr. No," to the tight blue swim trunks sported by Daniel Craig in "Casino Royale."

Cosgrave said that since "Dr. No" in 1962, "Bond has consistently led the way" in style.

She said Sean Connery's "conduit cut" suit by Saville Row tailor Anthony Sinclair from the 1960s films is "the men's equivalent of a Chanel suit," while a sharply cut tuxedo is so identified with the character it has become known as "the James Bond look."

The first time Bond appeared onscreen, in "Dr. No," viewers saw the silk-lined cuff of his tuxedo sleeve before they saw Connery's face.

Cosgrave said the success of the look is simple to explain.

"It's sexy," she said. "When does a man look his best? In a tuxedo."

The exhibition includes tuxes worn by Bonds from Connery (classic Saville Row) to Roger Moore (by designer-to-the-stars Doug Hayward) to Craig, who is dressed by American designer Tom Ford. Ford's lean suits—in neatly circular fashion—draw on the 1960s for inspiration.

Cosgrave said that because actors typically play 007 over several films—apart from one-off George Lazenby in "On Her Majesty's Secret Service"—"each Bond had an opportunity to forge a relationship with their tailor. As a result, they're impeccably dressed."

All those designer names reveal another Bond secret—007 is both an international brand himself and a magnet for other luxury labels.

With the 23rd Bond film, "Skyfall," set for release in October, the exhibition gift shop lets visitors purchase a piece of Bond style, from cocktail shakers and martini glasses to silk ties and gold bars made of chocolate.

"Designing 007" opens Friday and runs to Sept. 5. It will then tour internationally, opening at the TIFF Bell Lightbox in Toronto in October.

Attorney: Casey Anthony rejected early plea deal

MIAMI (AP)—Casey Anthony's attorney said he strongly considered early in the case whether she should plead guilty to a lesser charge to avoid the death penalty if convicted of murdering her 2-year-old daughter Caylee, but Anthony adamantly insisted she had nothing to do with the toddler's death.

In his just-published book "Presumed Guilty, Casey Anthony: The Inside Story," attorney Jose Baez said prosecutors offered in 2008 to allow Anthony to plead guilty to aggravated manslaughter of a child and serve up to 13 years in prison. Baez said in an interview with The Associated Press that in those early days he thought taking it might be in Anthony's best interest.

"There were times, difficult times, when the evidence didn't look good for Casey," Baez said, adding that it was his obligation as a lawyer to convey any such plea offers.

Anthony, he said, "would not entertain it for a second." As he became more familiar with the state's mostly circumstantial case, Baez said he grew convinced she would be acquitted by a jury—as she was a year ago Thursday of all charges except for four misdemeanors of lying to investigators.

"There was nothing in the trial that ever made me think Casey was guilty of anything as related to the murder," Baez said. "Every single piece of evidence favored us."

Baez

Prosecutors claimed Anthony suffocated Caylee with duct tape so she could spend time with her boyfriend and be free for Orlando's nightlife. Baez said during the trial—repeated again in his book—that Caylee accidentally drowned in a family swimming pool and that her father, George Anthony, hid the body. Baez also claimed George Anthony sexually abused his daughter.

George Anthony denied both allegations, and there was little brought up about them during the trial. Baez said the defense wasn't required to put on any such evidence because proving the case is the prosecution's burden, not the other way around.

Evidence and testimony showed that Anthony was a habitual liar, even making up fake friends and pretending every day to go to a job she didn't have. Baez was asked whether Anthony's lies surrounding her daughter's disappearance might be indicative that she was guilty.

"I don't think the lies are indicative of innocence or guilt," he said. "The lies were there long before Caylee passed away." In the book, he says Anthony had built a "fantasy world," and her lies weren't evidence of guilt but signs of someone with "serious mental health issues."

Baez said one piece of prosecution evidence he was most concerned about was that police cadaver dogs had indicated a body may have been in the trunk of Anthony's car at one point and also that a body may have been in the backyard. None was discovered in the backyard and there was nothing but rotting bags of trash in the trunk.

But, he said, people—and jurors—believe in dogs.

"That concerned me a little bit. Most people really think dogs can do magic," Baez said.

The prosecution's flaw, he added, was that regarding the car search the dog and handler were focused only on Anthony's vehicle and did not include others in a lineup to give the dog options.

Overall, Baez attributed the strong public backlash against the jury's verdict to a lack of understanding about the judicial system and because "a lot of people bought into the hype" that Anthony must have been guilty. He noted that jurors who gave media interviews after the trial said they waited for weeks for strong evidence that never came.

"We need to talk about whether an actual murder occurred," he said. "That's where the focus should have been, and it never was."

Baez declined to comment on what Anthony is doing these days and on how often he talks to her. He said he promised her confidentiality when she agreed that he could write his book, in which she did not participate. Anthony is living in an undisclosed location in Florida serving probation for an unrelated conviction, which Baez said ends on Aug. 21.

"She's doing a lot better than she was in prison," Baez said, but then added: "She's a prisoner of her own freedom."

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High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. Must be proficient in various Microsoft software applications. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good people and interpersonal skills at work. Should be able to work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

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Rihanna sues ex-accountants for millions in losses

NEW YORK (AP)—Rihanna sued her former accountants Thursday, blaming them for tens of millions of dollars in losses, shoddy bookkeeping, a failure to recommend she trim expenses when a 2009 tour was losing money and an ongoing audit by the Internal Revenue Service.

The lawsuit in federal court in Manhattan sought unspecified damages against New York-based Berdon LLP and two accountants. A Berdon spokeswoman said the company had no immediate comment.

The singer, suing under her real name, Robyn Fenty, alleged through her attorneys that the defendants drained tens of millions of dollars from revenues while she launched four national and international tours over a five-year period.

By the "Last Girl on Earth" tour in 2009, Rihanna learned that the tour had managed

Rihanna

"significant net losses" despite robust revenues, though the defendants had managed to pocket 22 percent of the tour's total revenues while paying Rihanna just 6 percent of revenues, the lawsuit said. It said Berdon's unusual accounting practice of paying itself a percentage of gross tour income as commissions left it no incentive to "counsel" Rihanna to reduce expenses or put in place appropriate financial controls.

The lawsuit alleged that the practice of paying itself commissions on revenues was not standard in the accounting and business management industry and created a clear conflict of interest.

Rihanna's lawyers also blamed the accounting firm for an ongoing IRS audit of her tax returns, saying she was forced to spend significant resources to correct errors resulting from negligence.

Since firing the firm and its accountants in September 2010, Rihanna's fortunes already have reversed, the lawsuit said. The "Loud" tour stretching from June 2011 to December 2011 produced a net profit equal to more than 40 percent of total tour revenues, it added.

According to the lawsuit, the singer hired the accountants in 2005 when she was a 16-year-old from Barbados launching her career. She alleged that they repeatedly breached their agreements, engaged in misconduct and malfeasance, paid themselves excessive commissions, created entities without regard to their effect on her taxes and failed to document revenue and expenses and implement a proper budget.

The lawsuit also blamed the company for Rihanna's 2009 purchase of a new home, saying competent business managers would have told her that her tour was losing money and that it would not be advisable to buy such an expensive home at that time.

Last year, Rihanna sued a real estate company in Los Angeles over the $6.9 million purchase of a hillside home in 2009, saying it had serious structural defects that made it inhabitable

Digital album sales up; Adele's '21' still No. 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Overall U.S. music album sales dropped slightly in the first six months of the year, but digital album sales are up more than 13 percent over a year ago.

Tracking firm Nielsen SoundScan said Thursday that 57 million digital albums have been sold so far in 2012, compared to 50 million during the same period last year. Digital album sales comprise 38 percent of all album purchases for the first half of the year.

Adele's Grammy-winning "21" is the top selling CD, both digitally and physically. It claimed the biggest one-week sales of 2012, with 730,000 copies sold in the week following the British singer's Grammy Awards sweep.

Lionel Richie's country duets album, "Tuskegee," came in second with 912,000 units sold to date, outselling Richie's last three studio albums combined.

HBO abandons plans for film on Fox News

NEW YORK (AP)—HBO is dropping its plans to make a film on Roger Ailes and the rise of Fox News Channel.

The network had optioned film rights to work by media writer Gabriel Sherman, who is writing a book on Fox News. But HBO said Thursday that it's not going forward with those plans, saying it wouldn't be appropriate considering the network's ties to Fox competitor CNN. Both HBO and CNN are owned by Time Warner.

Until a report on the website Deadline Hollywood on Thursday, it wasn't even common knowledge that HBO was working on a Fox film. HBO spokesman Jeff Cusson says little work had been done so far.

MSNBC's "Morning Joe" co-hosts Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski (MEE'-kah brah-ZIHN-skee) are among the producers of the shelved film.

Matthew McConaughey and new wife Camila expecting

NEW YORK (AP)—Matthew McConaughey and his wife Camila aren't just newlyweds, they're also expecting.

McConaughey's representative confirmed that his wife is pregnant with the couple's third child. Both the actor and his bride tweeted the news on Wednesday.

"Happy birthday America, more good news, Camila and I are expecting our 3rd child," the actor wrote, "God bless, just keep livin."

The baby will join a son named Levi, who turns 4 this week, and 2-year-old daughter Vida.

McConaughey, 42, wed 29-year-old Brazilian-born Camila Alves last month in a ceremony at their Austin, Texas home.

Camila McConaughey, as she is now known, is a handbag designer and model who will begin appearing in Macy's ads next month. Matthew McConaughey has been busy promoting his new film "Magic Mike."

AP

This June 24, 2012 file photo shows actor Matthew McConaughey and his wife Camila Alves McConaughey attending the premiere of "Magic Mike" at Regal Cinemas L.A. Live in Los Angeles.

Frank Ocean lauded for revealing same-sex love

NEW YORK (AP)—The music industry is showing support to R&B singer Frank Ocean after he revealed that his first love was a man.

Ocean announced the news Wednesday on his blog. His record label's president, Joie Manda, showed support to the rising singer in a statement to The Associated Press on Thursday.

"The courage he displayed in his beautiful and eloquent letter was touching on many levels. Frank broke down a wall that should never have been built," Manda's statement read. "The overwhelming show of support from his peers was awesome and inspiring. Island Def Jam is so proud to stand beside Frank Ocean—the artist and man—now and always."

Def Jam founder Russell Simmons wrote in a post that he's moved by Ocean's "courage and honesty."

"Today is a big day for hip-hop," Simmons wrote on his Global Grind website Wednesday. "Your decision to go public about your sexual orientation gives hope and light to so many young people still living in fear."

Flea of Red Hot Chili Peppers tweeted: "Strong move by frank ocean, makes me happy."

And others, from Solange Knowles to RuPaul to Rita Ora, also tweeted positive thoughts.

Actor Johnny Knoxville called Ocean's decision a "brave thing to do, and the right thing to do" in a tweet Thursday.

Ocean is best known for the R&B songs "Novacane" and "Thinkin Bout You." The 24-year-old self-released his debut, "nostalgia, ULTRA," to critical success last year and will release an official album, "Channel Orange," on July 17. It features collaborations with John Mayer and Andre 3000 of OutKast.

Ocean has also written songs for Beyonce, Justin Bieber, John Legend and Brandy.

Baby is cause for celebration despite parents' bad behavior

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My brother left his wife of nine years and his children for another woman. They now have a baby together. His wife nearly had a nervous breakdown because of it, and his children are understandably upset with the situation.

My question has to do with his new baby. I would like to send my brother a congratulatory card, even though his divorce isn't final. Our mother is furious and refuses to speak to him, let alone congratulate him. Still, I would like to send a card and a gift for the baby. How should I handle this?

UNDECIDED

DEAR UNDECIDED: Send a card and a gift to the baby. The child should not be punished because of the behavior of the parents. However, considering the circumstances, forgo the congratulatory card to your brother.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My two friends and I will be 12 soon. We would like to try to make our own money so we can get off our parents' backs. There are things like lip gloss and magazines we'd like to buy.

We have considered baby-sitting. But are we old enough? We'd appreciate your input.

KAYLA IN MISSOURI

DEAR KAYLA: In baby-sitting, it isn't how old a person is but how MATURE and responsible the prospective sitter is. Some 12- and 13-year-olds are mature enough to handle it; others are not.

However, before deciding how your earnings will be spent, talk to your parents to determine how much they would like you to begin saving. It's never too early to start.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: In the 17 years I have been married, my husband has never called me by my name. Nor has he ever used a term of endearment such as "Honey" or "Sweetheart." It's just "Hey ..." or "Ummm ..."

Am I crazy? I was raised to believe you address a person by name, say "thank you" if someone does something nice, and compliment a person if he or she has done well. Can you help me understand why he behaves this way?

I HAVE A NAME

DEAR I HAVE A NAME: Did your husband treat you this way before you married him? If so, you married an undemonstrative lump of a man who apparently never learned basic manners while growing up. If it started after your wedding—and after you told him how his behavior makes you feel, he has persisted—then understand that he is trying to punish you for something.

Now I have a question for you: Why have you tolerated this kind of passive-aggressive behavior for 17 years?

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When someone at the office lends you a lint remover, should you return it with the used lint paper still on it—or tear it off and return it with a fresh one? Please let me know which is appropriate.

ANGELICA IN SAN JOSE, CALIF.

DEAR ANGELICA: If the roller was clean when it was given to you, then it should not be returned with lint on it. In other words, when an item is borrowed, it should be returned in the same condition in which it was loaned.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

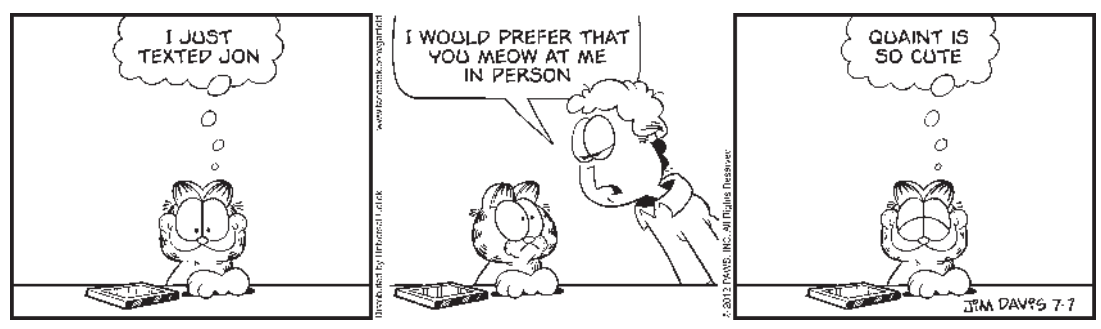
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



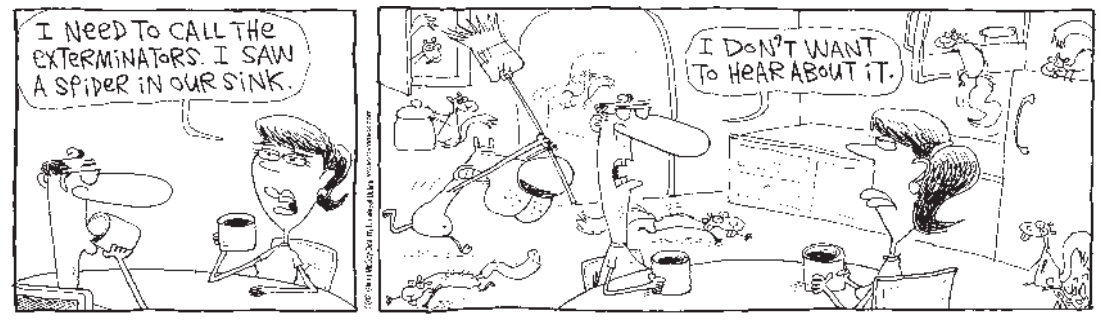
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT'S THAT MUSIC?
IT'S A BAND CALLED "THE NATIONAL."
I LIKE IT. MAKES ME WANT TO DANCE.
DANCE? REALLY? EXCUSE ME.
SNAP
TURNING THE MUSIC OFF IS NOT VERY SUBTLE, ANDRE!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Unpaid TV ad
4 Carpet style
8 Old portico
12 Chaney of film lore
13 Caffeine-rich nut
14 Hack
15 Make up your mind
16 Molecular matter
17 Demolish
18 Informer
21 Crucial
22 Highland boy
23 Bottom
26 Wield an axe
27 Rx watchdog org.
30 Throat clearer
31 Scratch
32 Affirmative actions
33 Prohibit
34 Lustrous black
35 Saw things?
36 Stickum
37 Explanation
38 Small flutes
45 Vicinity
46 Charged bits
47 Pub order
48 Snaps
49 Naked
50 Upper limit
51 Egyptian cross
52 Crossword diagram
53 Whatever number

DOWN

1 Turn the soil
2 Former frosh
3 Con
4 Roller derby participant
5 With fervor
6 Shaving cream additive
7 Casino patron
8 New England seafood
9 Melt
10 Leak slowly
11 Mimic
19 Read quickly
20 Legislation
23 Apprehend
24 "Eureka!"
25 Hideaway
26 Chapeau
27 Adversary
28 Banned bug spray
29 Fire residue
31 Cat chat?
32 Mr. Gingrich
34 Pleasure
35 Threw
36 Grind, in a way
37 Language of India
38 One of the Three Bears
39 Ms. Brockovich
40 Bottle feature
41 Session with a shrink
42 Tibetan monk
43 Flair
44 Alluring

Solution time: 27 mins.

I	L	K		O	T	B		M	A	C	R	O
C	O	L		L	A	O		A	P	H	I	D
I	O	U		D	I	S	K	D	R	I	V	E
E	F	T		S	C	O	N	E				
R	A	Z	Z		H	M	O		W	E	P	T
			L	E	I		W	E	A	L	I	H
T	H	R	O	W				A	L	L	A	Y
O	R	A	T	E	S		O	T	T			
E	S	P	Y		P	A	L		Z	I	N	G
				A	U	D	I	T		N	I	L
L	I	N	E	D	R	I	V	E		A	G	O
A	R	O	M	A		O	I	L		P	E	R
D	A	T	U	M		S	A	L		T	R	Y

Yesterday's answer 7-7

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				■	17			
18			19					20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26			■	27	28	29
30				■	31			■	32			
33			■	34			■	35				
■	■	■	36			■	37			■	■	■
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45				■	46				■	47		
48				■	49				■	50		
51				■	52				■	53		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michelle Kwan, 32; Berenice Bejo, 36; Shelley Duvall, 63; Ringo Starr, 72.

Happy Birthday: Learn all you can. Voice your opinion and take charge before someone else takes over and takes credit. Traveling, adopting foreign strategies or taking an unusual approach to an old idea will lead to greater opportunities. Stand up to anyone who tries to push you out of the way. Protect your physical and emotional wellness. Your numbers are 5, 13, 18, 20, 27, 36, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Someone you are involved with personally or professionally will have ulterior motives. Last-minute changes will work in your favor. Love and romance may be in the stars. Assess your situation and make adjustments to suit your needs. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Look at what and whom you are dealing with before making an impulsive move that you may regret. Time is on your side. Slow down and wait until you have a clearer view of what you can and cannot do. Avoid overspending. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): False information or being promised the impossible is likely to push you in a new direction. Concentrate on what you can accomplish. Network with people you trust to honor their word. Romance is in the stars, but so is deception. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Present and promote your skills. Speak up about what you can offer. Don't make reckless decisions regarding your home or status. Secret information that concerns you personally is likely to be revealed. An unusual interest will inspire you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Getting involved in a cause or taking on a responsibility that demonstrates your skills and adaptability will impress someone who can offer you something in return. An opportunity to make positive personal changes will bring good results. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You must think and react. There is no room for error or second-guessing your next move. Size up what needs to be done and act quickly to remedy any problems. A financial gain can be yours. Don't rely on others. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't be fooled by what someone says. You have to go to the source and find out information firsthand. Offering your services to a group you want to help will bring rewards and help you enhance your reputation and position. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take as much time as needed to develop an idea, but don't share what you are working on with someone who may copy what you are doing. Protect your assets, your possessions and your heart from anyone capable of taking you for granted. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep a low profile, especially when dealing with friends, relatives or neighbors. Someone will point out if you exaggerate, and criticism can be expected if you are overindulgent. Focus on positive changes to your home environment. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Travel down memory lane. Visit places you used to frequent, or get together with someone you haven't seen in a long time. Sharing your thoughts will help you make moves that will turn your dreams into a reality. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Money, assets, possessions and investments are all looking positive. Make alterations at home that will bring you closer to the people you love most. Doing some of the work yourself will help you save cash for something you desire. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Avoid conflicts with friends or anyone in an authoritative position. Stick to the truth and don't venture too far from home. Surround yourself with loved ones you can count on for moral support. Avoid excess. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a unique daydreamer and a historian. You learn through experience.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3	4			2			9	6
	2		7		4		3	
	8	6				5	7	
		9				8		
	7		5		6		2	
9	3			7			5	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	6	3	8	7	2	5	1	4
2	1	8	4	5	3	6	9	7
5	7	4	1	9	6	2	8	3
8	2	6	5	3	1	7	4	9
1	3	5	7	4	9	8	6	2
4	9	7	2	6	8	3	5	1
7	5	9	3	8	4	1	2	6
6	8	1	9	2	7	4	3	5
3	4	2	6	1	5	9	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HAPPY DIAZ ARE HERE AGAIN FOR CAMERON Solution: 7 letters

H	N	S	T	R	O	P	S	R	E	T	S	I	S	S
O	O	G	N	I	D	D	E	W	G	A	M	B	I	T
L	I	F	H	H	A	P	P	Y	S	E	I	V	O	M
I	T	R	O	T	E	N	R	O	H	N	E	E	R	G
D	C	I	J	E	Y	K	S	A	L	L	I	N	A	V
A	A	E	K	D	E	E	E	B	L	U	E	E	N	E
Y	I	N	A	R	Y	L	I	E	N	S	M	S	E	G
A	N	D	H	N	L	M	S	L	S	I	M	O	V	A
D	R	S	N	E	A	I	S	E	L	I	B	P	I	S
N	O	U	H	C	O	E	R	I	L	I	U	C	G	W
U	F	C	I	M	O	T	O	E	E	Ⓜ	B	N	Y	E
S	I	R	E	H	C	A	E	T	D	Ⓐ	B	G	N	E
M	L	D	S	A	N	O	I	F	O	Ⓢ	L	L	A	T
M	A	L	K	O	V	I	C	H	M	Ⓚ	Y	R	A	M
M	C	H	A	R	L	I	E	S	A	N	G	E	L	S

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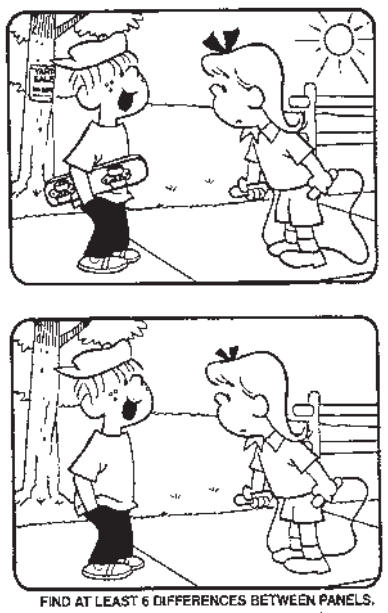
Action, Actress, Any Given, Bad Teacher, Billie, Blue, Bubbly, California, Cami, Charlie's Angels, Emilio, Fiona, Friends, Funny, Gambit, Green Hornet, Happy, Holiday, John, Keeper, Levis, Mademoiselle, Malkovich, Mary, Mask, Michelle, Model, Movies, Pose, Shoes, Shrek, Sisters, Smile, Sports, Sunday, Sweet, Tall, Vanilla Sky, Vegas, Wedding

Yesterday's Answer: Soul Sister

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Differences: 1. Poster is missing. 2. Skateboard is missing. 3. Bow is smaller. 4. Sun is missing. 5. Shorts are shorter. 6. Jump-rope is different.

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Wishing Well®

4	7	5	6	8	3	2	7	6	2	6	3	4
E	I	B	N	F	B	S	M	O	P	S	E	N
2	8	2	3	6	2	4	3	6	5	4	6	7
E	R	C	S	T	I	C	E	R	E	O	U	P
4	8	7	4	7	6	5	6	7	8	7	3	2
U	I	O	R	R	G	Y	G	T	E	A	L	A
7	8	3	6	5	4	6	3	8	3	4	6	7
N	N	F	L	O	A	E	R	D	E	G	S	T
3	5	8	4	8	3	7	4	2	3	5	4	8
L	U	L	E	Y	I	M	O	L	A	R	T	G
3	4	3	8	4	2	8	4	2	8	2	8	7
N	H	T	A	E	E	T	R	V	H	E	E	A
5	8	4	8	2	8	5	8	2	5	7	5	7
S	R	S	I	N	N	E	G	T	L	I	F	L

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

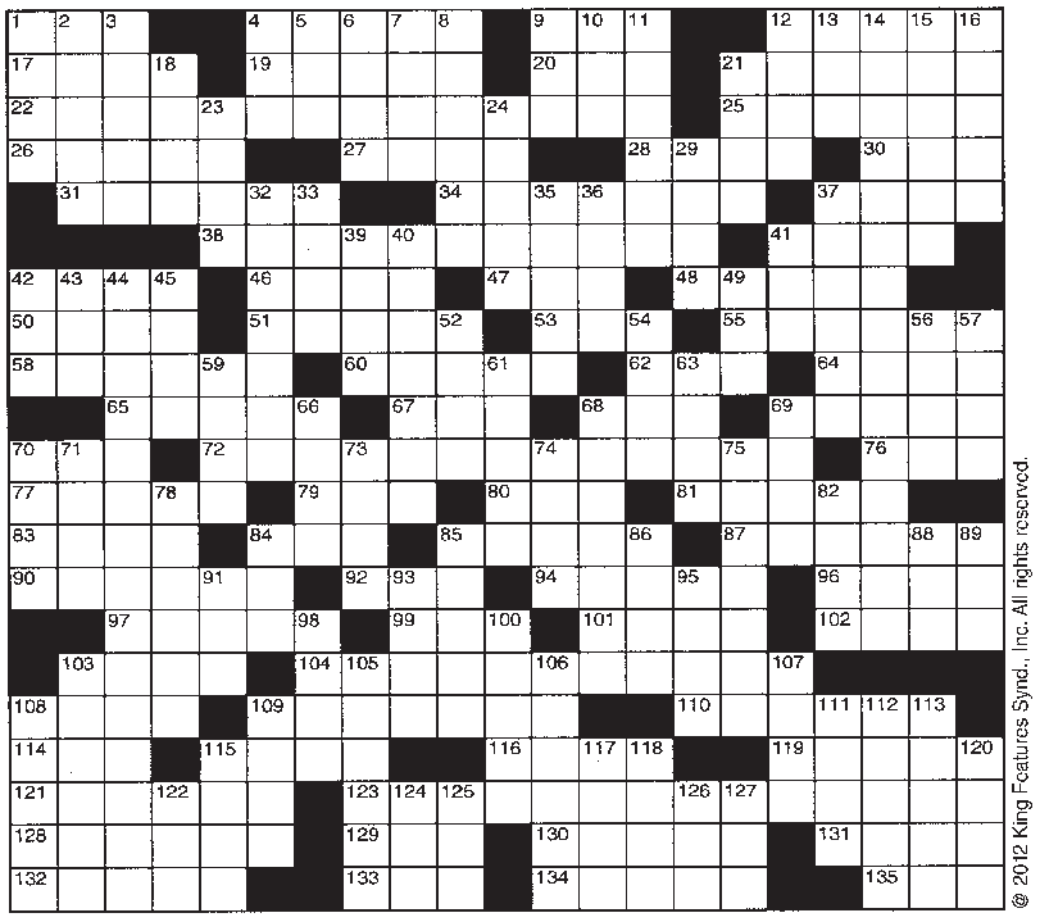
SHARPEN YOUR WITS

ACROSS

1 Mineral suffix
4 Awaited
9 Two, in Tijuana
12 Out of line
17 Worthless
19 Pad
20 Journalist Tarbell
21 Hapsburg capital
22 Like a spy story
25 Actress Jennifer
26 Former Pentagon head
27 Big name in locks
28 Dweeb's cousin?
30 Competitor
31 Germ type
34 Made likely
37 Pumper's pride
38 Harrison Ford movie
41 With 68 down, "CHiPs" star
42 Tenor Thomas
46 Writer Hunter
47 Turf
48 Field marshal Rommel
50 Chemistry info
51 Gets slushy
53 Seoul soldier
55 Non-threatening
58 Ms. Goldberg
60 Act like Etna
62 Fine stuff?
64 Actor Everett
65 Bring up
67 Conger
68 Look over
69 "Superman" star
70 Pitch in
72 Somerset Maugham work
76 Pale
77 Gravy ingredient
79 Prison pariah
80 Rum sum
81 Mead's milieu
83 Eatery
84 Snyder or Hanks
85 Houston ballplayer
87 Detest
90 "Calendar Girl" crooner
92 Fox's foot
94 Desert schlepper
96 Circus barker?
97 Fight site
99 Crank's comment
101 Take risks
102 Auto adornment
103 Very, very satisfied
104 Michael Ansara series
108 Egg plant?
109 Fondue ingredient
110 Rifleman
114 Business abbr.
115 James of "Misery"
116 Pearl Harbor's locale
119 Hold back
121 Flautist James
123 The Searchers hit
128 Private's posture
129 Lodge member
130 Carry on
131 Joy Adamson's joy
132 Hirsute Jamaican
133 Occupy a cot
134 Chutzpah
135 Chariot bumper?

DOWN

1 Peruvian of old
2 Oklahoma city
3 Hitch in haste
4 Quote from 41 down
5 — Saud
6 Comic Goodman
7 Snorri's stories
8 He moves cars
9 Excavate
10 Laudatory lyrics
11 French philosopher
12 Isn't completely wrong?
13 Diocese
14 Roman Polanski film
15 Put behind bars
16 Cardiff's country
18 Where lions laze
21 Nothing but space
23 Handle
24 Class
29 Used to be
32 Imperfection
33 Roof edge
35 Breathe like a bull
36 Reverse
37 Eventual monarch
39 Chip's chum
40 Beseech
41 Fluffy female
42 Mouth piece?
43 Antique ending
44 Impending peril
45 Pericles' portico
49 Mil. group
52 De Lesseps' ditch
54 Danny or Stubby
56 Hot rocks?
57 Early orchard?
59 Essence
61 Machinations
63 Some wines
66 Mr. Saarinen
68 See 41 Across
69 San —, Italy
70 Basics
71 "Dies —"
73 Interstate exit
74 Coll. cadets
75 Armada member
78 Shred
82 Kind of kiln
84 Prepare to be in "Baywatch"
85 Vigilant
86 Astronomer Khayyam
88 "Bali —"
89 New Haven hardwood
91 Brew barrel
93 "— Named Sue" ('69 hit)
95 Slips up
98 "— -Ca-Dabra" ('74 song)
100 Biblical tyrant
103 Musical composition
105 Stream
106 Kevin of "SNL"
107 Unrestrained
108 Churchill trademark
109 Motown's Marvin
111 Organ part
112 Boxer Griffith
113 Hair coloring
115 — Grande, AZ
117 Present
118 Weekend warriors (Abbr.)
120 Autocrat
122 Angkor — (Cambodian temple)
124 Ivy Leaguer
125 Manage, with "out"
126 Off-rd. transport
127 Formerly known as



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What state is home to the most of the Yellowstone National Park?
2. TELEVISION: What was Norm's wife's name in the sitcom "Cheers"?
3. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of toads called?
4. PERSONALITIES: What 1950s television newsman signed off his broadcasts with the words, "Good night and good luck"?
5. LANGUAGE: What does recalcitrant mean?
6. MUSIC: What famous duo performed "Foggy Mountain Breakdown"?
7. MEDICAL: What common condition is known as cephalalgia?
8. INVENTIONS: Where were cross-bladed scissors invented?
9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Dracula"?
10. MOVIES: What famous actress played an uncredited bit part as a Halloween ghoul in the movie "E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial"?

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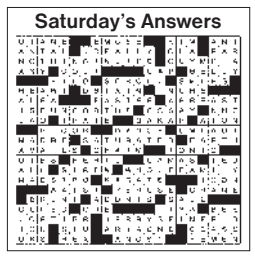
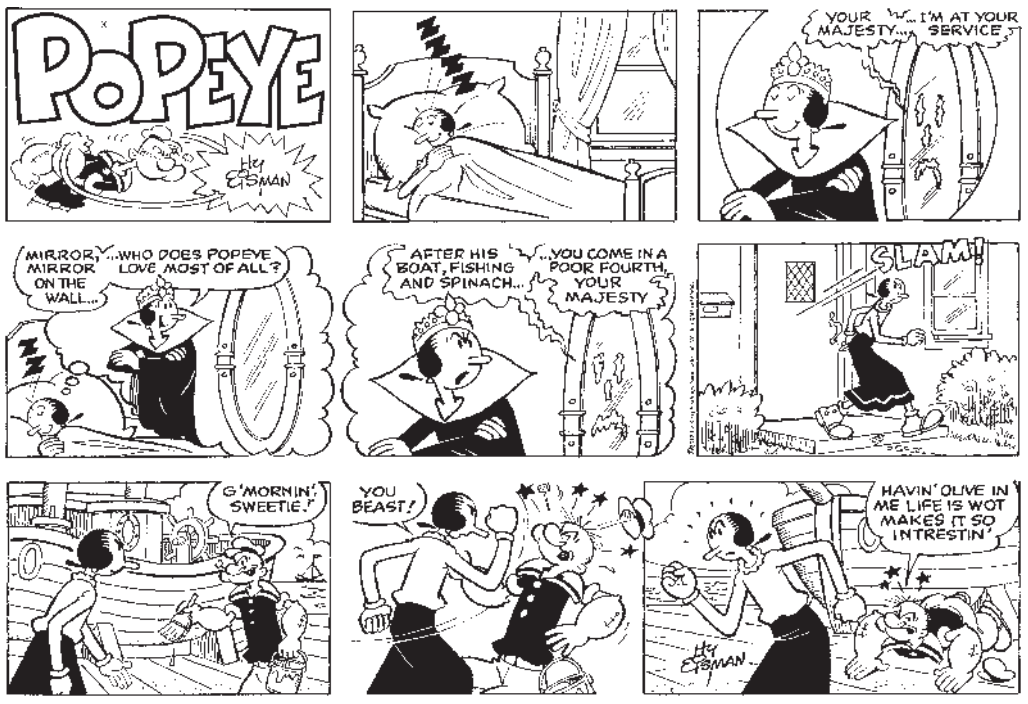
Answer

1. Wyoming
2. Vera
3. A knot
4. Edward R. Murrow
5. Resistant to authority
6. Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs
7. Headache
8. Early Rome, about 100 A.D.
9. Bram Stoker
10. Debra Winger (Nurse Zombie carrying a Poodle)

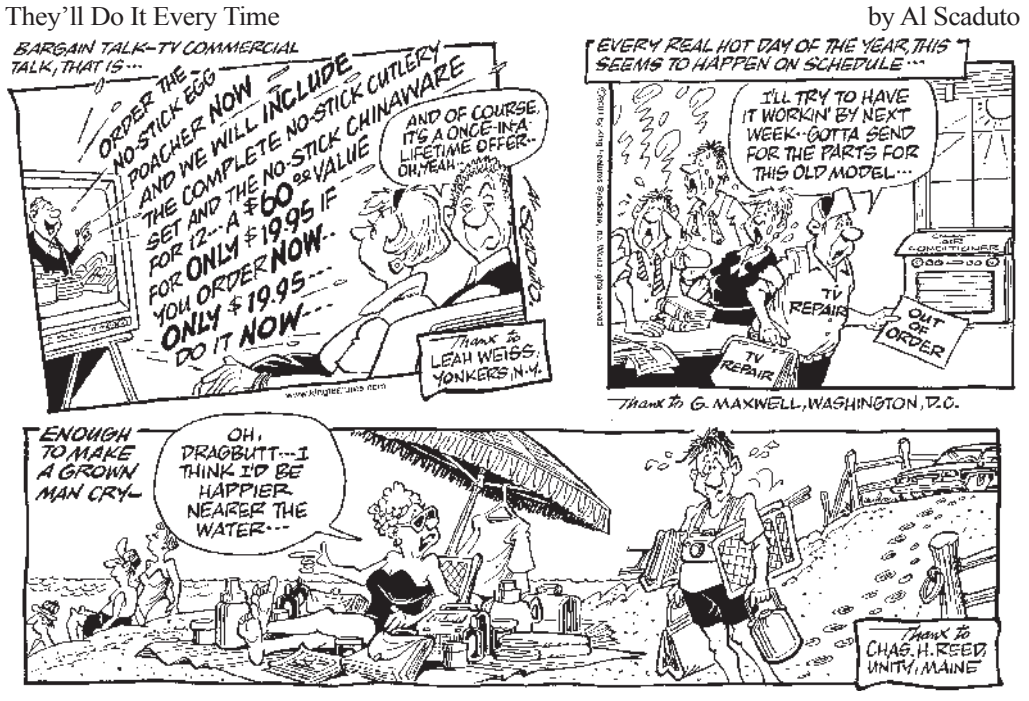
Saturday's Answers



POPEYE

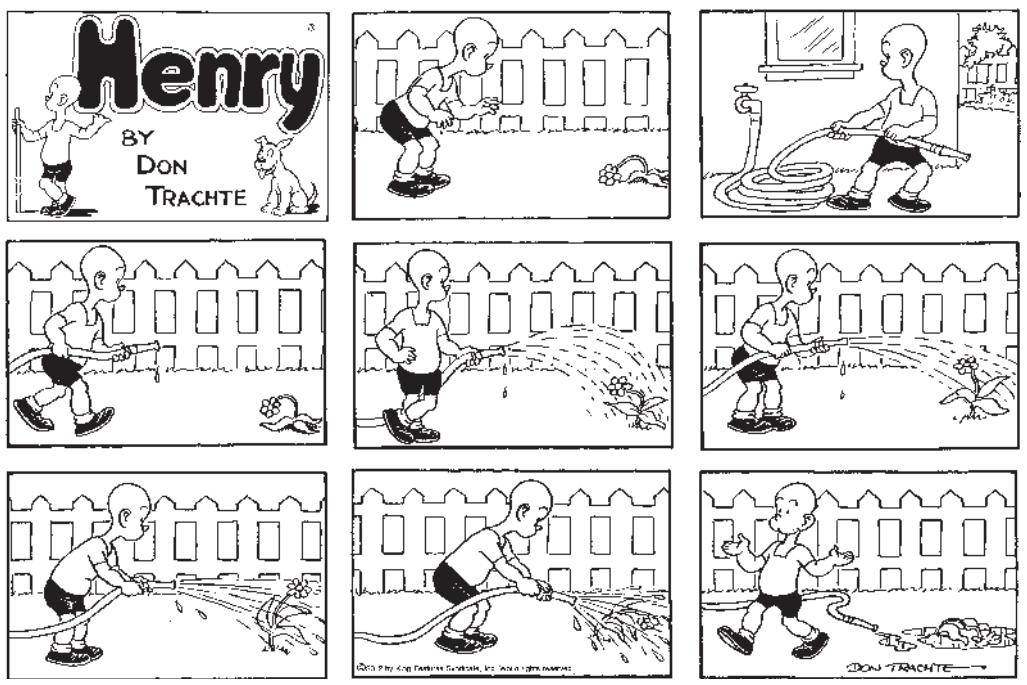

Hey Eisman
YOUR MAJESTY... I'M AT YOUR SERVICE
MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL... WHO DOES POPEYE LOVE MOST OF ALL?
AFTER HIS BOAT, FISHING AND SPINACH... YOU COME IN A POOR FOURTH, YOUR MAJESTY
SLAM!
G'MORNIN', SWEETIE!
YOU BEAST!
HAVIN' OLIVE IN ME LIFE IS WOT MAKES IT SO INTRESTIN'
Hey Eisman

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


BARGAIN TALK-TV COMMERCIAL TALK, THAT IS...
ORDER THE NO-STICK EGG POACHER NOW AND WE WILL INCLUDE THE COMPLETE NO-STICK CUTLERY SET AND THE NO-STICK CHINAWARE FOR 12--A $60.00 VALUE FOR ONLY $19.95 IF YOU ORDER NOW-- ONLY $19.95--- DO IT NOW---
AND OF COURSE, IT'S A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OFFER-- OH, YEAH...
Thanx to LEAH WEISS, YONKERS N.Y.
EVERY REAL HOT DAY OF THE YEAR, THIS SEEMS TO HAPPEN ON SCHEDULE...
I'LL TRY TO HAVE IT WORKIN' BY NEXT WEEK--GOTTA SEND FOR THE PARTS FOR THIS OLD MODEL...
AIR CONDITIONER
TV REPAIR
OUT OF ORDER
TV REPAIR
Thanx to G. MAXWELL, WASHINGTON, D.C.
ENOUGH TO MAKE A GROWN MAN CRY--
OH, DRAGBUTT--I THINK I'D BE HAPPIER NEARER THE WATER---
Thanx to CHAS. H. REED UNITY, MAINE

Henry

BY DON TRACHTE



The Spats — by Jeff Pickering

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LEE KWANG SUK, Plaintiff,	Civil Action No. 11-0115
vs.	
DANIEL R. QUITUGUA, JR., Defendant.	

NOTICE AND ORDER CONTINUING HEARING ON MOTION FOR ENTRY OF JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Plaintiff's previously noticed and continued November 9, 2011 Motion for Entry of Judgment by Default and hearing thereon is continued and reset for hearing on Wednesday, August 1, 2012 at 9:30am. Defendant Daniel R. Quitugua, Jr., and all other interested parties and persons shall appear and present their opposition or objections at that time or failing to do so, final judgment by default may be entered and granted in Plaintiff's favor.

This notice and order shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth on two (2) consecutive Saturdays prior to the August 1, 2012 hearing date.

SO ORDERED AND ENTERED this 25th day of June, 2012.

HON. ROBERT C. NARAJA
Presiding Judge

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Yano Enterprises, Inc.

Restaurant Supervisor (1): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Restaurant Waitress (2): Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Able to introduce & recommend menu to customer & other duties related.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police and court clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to a drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Garapan, Hotel Street.
Please no phone calls.

LOOKING TO BUY VEHICLES

We're buying '95 & Up used cars! Transaction only within 30 mins. Call 287-8688 or visit DPA CAR MART in San Antonio.

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

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Quintana steers White Sox past Rangers, 2-1

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago rookie Jose Quintana allowed just two Texas hits in eight stellar innings as the White Sox completed a three-game sweep of the Rangers with a 2-1 win over their rival American League divisional leaders on Thursday.

On a scorching day at U.S. Cellular Field, Quintana (4-1) walked only one and struck out a career-high eight. He gave up only a leadoff single in the first and an RBI single in the fourth on a line drive that hit the pitcher near the hip and bounced past first base.

With a thunderstorm hitting the ball park in the ninth, Addison Reed pitched the final inning for his 12th save in 13 chances.

Kevin Youkilis took Rangers All-Star Matt Harrison (11-4) deep in the sixth to break a 1-11 tie; his second homer since joining the White Sox in a trade from Boston last month.

AP

Chicago White Sox starter Jose Quintana throws against the Texas Rangers during the first inning of a baseball game in Chicago, Thursday, July 5, 2012.

Angels 9, Orioles 7

In Anaheim, Kendrys Morales hit a two-run single in a five-run fourth inning that rallied Los Angeles past Baltimore.

LaTroy Hawkins (2-1), the second of six Angels pitchers, retired both batters he faced in the fourth inning and got credit for the victory.

The Angels climbed within four games of the AL West-leading Texas Rangers.

Indians 3, Rays 1

In Cleveland, Josh Tomlin pitched seven stellar innings to guide Cleveland past Tampa Bay.

Tomlin (5-5) limited the Rays to two hits; easily his best outing since April.

Shin-Soo Choo led off the first with a homer off Jeremy Hellickson (4-5), Michael Brantley connected in the second and Travis Hafner homered in the eighth.

The Rays have scored more than four runs only once in their past 11 games.

Royals 9, Blue Jays 6

In Toronto, Luke Hochevar won despite leaving the game with a sprained ankle, guiding Kansas City past Toronto.

Hochevar (6-8) gave up four hits in five innings before leaving with his injury. He sprained his right ankle while running to cover first base on an infield single in the fifth.

Eric Hosmer had three RBIs for the Royals, who had a season-high 16 hits.

Tigers 7, Twins 3

In Detroit, Prince Fielder hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning to break a tie and lift Detroit over Minnesota.

Delmon Young followed with a solo shot as the Tigers split the four-game series.

The damage all came against Alex Burnett (2-1), who came in at the start of the eighth.

Nationals 6, Giants 5

In St. Louis, Washington's Bryce Harper scored the winning run when San Francisco's first baseman Brandon Belt couldn't dig out a short-hop throw on a potential double-play ball in the ninth inning, giving the Nationals a win over the Giants.

Washington completed a sweep on a night in which the U.S. capital celebrated fond memories of the 1924 World Series.

It was throwback night in Washington, as the "Senators" topped the "New York Giants" with a two-run rally off Santiago Casilla (2-4). The NL East leaders recovered from a four-run deficit and have won four straight.

Tyler Clippard (2-2) pitched the ninth to get the win for the Nationals.

Dodgers 4, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Scott Van Slyke and Elian Herrera hit solo home runs as Los Angeles sent Arizona to its sixth straight loss.

Van Slyke went deep off Wade Miley and Herrera hit his first big league homer to chase Arizona's lone All-Star representative in the seventh inning.

Diamondbacks starter Miley allowed four runs in 6 2-3 innings.

Mets 6, Phillies 5

In New York, David Wright singled with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, lifting New York over Philadelphia, preserving pitcher R.A. Dickey's 11-game winning streak.

Mets catcher Josh Thole prevented a run in the eighth when he held on to the ball despite being barreled over at home plate.

New York's Ike Davis began the ninth with a double off Jonathan Papelbon (2-3). A sacrifice moved pinch-runner Ronny Cedeno to third before a strike out. Papelbon then hit Jordany Valdespin with a pitch and walked Ruben Tejada to load the bases.

Marlins 4, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, Carlos Lee doubled and scored in his Miami debut as the Marlins split the four-game series against Milwaukee.

Lee, acquired in a trade with Houston on Wednesday, started at first base.

Miami starter Mark Buerhle (8-8) struck out a season-best eight over 7 2/3 scoreless innings. He was challenged in the fourth when Milwaukee had runners at the corners with two outs, but a strike out ended the threat. The Brewers failed to advance a runner to third for the rest of the game.

Pirates 2, Astros 0

In Pittsburgh, Jeff Karstens pitched eight scoreless innings as surging Pittsburgh blanked Houston.

Karstens (2-2) struck out a season-high eight against just one walk as the Pirates completed their first four-game sweep of the Astros at home since 1979.

Garrett Jones and Casey McGehee each drove in a run for Pittsburgh, which has won eight of nine to vault into first in the NL Central.

Houston's Bud Norris (5-6) gave up two runs in seven solid innings but the Astros' offense sputtered a day after trading slugger Carlos Lee. Houston managed four singles and didn't get a runner to third base until the ninth while losing its eighth straight game.

Padres 2, Reds 1

In San Diego, Everth Cabrera hit a bases-loaded single in the ninth inning to lift San Diego over Cincinnati.

Rookie Yasmani Grandal hit a leadoff triple in the ninth against Logan Ondrusek (3-2), who then intentionally walked a batter. Cameron Maybin followed with a bunt that bounced high in the air and left no play, loading the bases.

The Reds brought in both infield and outfield but Cabrera's fly ball hit the left-field wall on one bounce, giving the Padres their season-high sixth straight win.

San Diego's All-Star Huston Street (2-0) pitched the ninth for the win.

Cardinals 6, Rockies 2

In St. Louis, Lance Lynn struck out seven in six shutout innings to steer St. Louis past Colorado.

Lynn (11-4) had been 0-2 with a 9.98 ERA in his three previous starts.

The Cardinals got two RBIs apiece from Matt Holliday and Carlos Beltran.

Colorado starter Christian Friedrich (4-6) gave up six runs in 4 1/3 innings.

Braves 7, Cubs 3

In Atlanta, Jason Heyward and Brian McCann each hit two-run homers in the first inning, setting up Atlanta's win over Chicago.

Freddie Freeman and Juan Francisco also connected for Atlanta, which salvaged a split of the four-game series.

Braves starter Mike Minor (5-6) held the Cubs without a hit until the fifth and gave up three hits in 6 1-3 innings overall.

Chicago's Matt Garza (4-7), who could be one of the top starters on the market ahead of this month's trade deadline, allowed five runs in four innings.

Serena to face Radwanska in Wimbledon final

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Instead of counting Serena Williams out at Wimbledon, it was much easier to count her aces.

About a month after losing in the first round of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time in her career, Williams hit a tournament-record 24 aces Thursday to reach her seventh Wimbledon final.

"I honestly didn't feel great on my serve today. I really didn't," Williams said after beating Victoria Azarenka of Belarus 6-3, 7-6 (6) on Centre Court. "I thought my serve was off, and apparently clearly it wasn't, so maybe I should be off a little more."

Williams has won 13 Grand Slam titles, with the last one coming at the All England Club two years ago. Shortly after that victory, Williams cut her feet on glass at a restaurant, leading to a series of health problems, including being hospitalized for clots in her lungs.

"I have so much appreciation for every moment on the court," Williams said. "I really take pride in playing, especially playing such big, amazing tournaments like this."

In Saturday's final, Williams will face Agnieszka Radwanska. The third-seeded Radwanska beat Angelique Kerber 6-3, 6-4 in the other semifinal to become the first Polish player to reach a Grand Slam final since 1939.

"I'm just going to try to mix it up," said Radwanska, who cut short her news conference because of a coughing fit. "Of course, every match is different, so I'll see after tomorrow how it's going to be."

On Friday in the men's semifinals, defending champion Novak Djokovic will face six-time winner Roger Federer, while Andy Murray will take on Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Williams and older sister Venus have been ever-present at Wimbledon since the turn of the century, with one or both reaching the final in 11 of the past 13 tournaments. Between them, they have won nine titles at the All England Club.

On Thursday, the 30-year-old Serena Williams looked more like the champion of yesteryear than the player who exited in the first round of the French Open five weeks ago.

She controlled play against Azarenka in the first set with her service game, winning 20 of the 24 points she started. She then went up an early break in the second set before Azarenka responded to make it 3-3.

They held the rest of the way, and Williams picked up her final three aces in the tiebreaker—the last one on match point.

"I got a little tight in the second set. I couldn't relax," Williams said. "I was, like, looking too far in the future and she came back. But I'm glad I was able to get through."

Williams set the previous Wimbledon record of 23 aces in a three-set victory over Zheng Jie in the third round of this year's tournament.

"I don't see anybody else serving like this on the tour," Azarenka said. "I was just trying to get the ball back as many times as I could, but it wasn't enough today."

A few hours later, the Williams sisters reached the semifinals in doubles—putting them two matches from their fifth Wimbledon title.

Earlier on Centre Court, Radwanska won with her steady play, winning five straight games to close out the first set after going down a break early. She'll need more of that to have a chance against Williams in the final.

"She's been consistent this year, more consistent than I have," Williams said of Radwanska. "That already tells me from the beginning I really need to go out there and be ready to hit a lot of shots and be ready to play hard."

Radwanska can take over the No. 1 ranking if she beats Williams on Saturday. If not, Azarenka, who won the Australian Open, will take over the top spot from Maria Sharapova.

But just reaching a major final, the first of her career, is an achievement for both Radwanska and Poland.

The last Polish player to reach a major final was Jadwiga Jedrzejowska. But she lost in the final of the 1939 French Championships, two years after runner-up finishes at Wimbledon and the U.S. Championships.

"I'm just very happy that I can be the second one here in Wimbledon, being in the final. She lost in three sets that year," said Radwanska. "But I will try now and we will see."

Nash elaborates on reasons he chose Lakers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Steve Nash could have earned more money while enjoying the twilight of his remarkable NBA career in Manhattan, his offseason home. Or he could have returned to Canada, finishing up his playing days in Toronto with an eye toward national history and another career in the front office.

Instead, the two-time MVP point guard is going Hollywood.

Nash is teaming up with Kobe Bryant and whatever 7-foot stars end up with the Los Angeles Lakers for at least a few more seasons of title contention on the best team within a short flight of Phoenix, where his three children live.

So what if the Lakers have been among his biggest rivals throughout his entire NBA career with Dallas and Phoenix? So what if he'll be in a backcourt with a ball-dominating superstar who has never shared possession with a point guard of Nash's abilities? So what if he can't wear No. 13, which is hanging in the Staples Center rafters with Wilt Chamberlain's name forever attached to it?

Children and championships trumped everything else in Nash's mind when he agreed to a sign-and-trade deal that will put him in purple and gold next week.

"The idea to be close to my son, my daughters, who will be in Phoenix, was the No. 1 priority," Nash told ESPN's Los Angeles station Thursday.

"Don't get me wrong, it's fantastic," he added. "I think I'm a good fit for the team, and we have a great team, we're a contender, that's all incredible, too. But as far as getting over the hump and being able to be a Laker after being a Sun and trying to beat the Lakers in the playoffs all those years, the reality is it was too great of an opportunity to pass up as far as my children were concerned. And fortunately for me, it's a great basketball situation."

The 38-year-old Canadian says he spoke to Bryant by phone Monday to see whether he wanted to work together. Bryant took a break from his basketball camp in Santa Barbara to confirm he thinks Nash would be a perfect fit in the Lakers' backcourt, providing a dimension they never possessed even in Derek Fisher's best years—a playmaking talent Los Angeles hasn't seen since Magic Johnson was running the show.

Nash said Bryant thinks he can be "somebody to handle the ball and lead. He also felt that we were complementary leaders. I'm more on the positive side, he's more ... I think as he said it, cracks the whip. I think pick-and-roll, adding that to the offense and being able to space the floor for the big guys inside, I think it's a good fit. He was excited, and I think that was important for me. It's going to be fun to work it all out and try to create some cohesion and chemistry on the floor and make all these pieces work."

The rest of those pieces are similarly overjoyed at the prospect of playing with Nash, even if the club can't officially acknowledge the deal until the free agency moratorium ends next week. About seven months after the Lakers' efforts to get Chris Paul were squashed by the NBA, they turned a trade exception acquired during that fiasco into Nash.

Pau Gasol, the Spanish 7-footer whose role diminished under new coach Mike Brown last season, reacted to the trade in a video chat on Twitter on Thursday.

"It will be a huge honor to play alongside Steve," said Gasol, who is in Madrid preparing for the Olympics. "Obviously I've known him for many years now, and he's been one of the elite point guards in the league for as long as I've played in the NBA. It would be a true pleasure to play with Steve. I know he still has a lot of juice in him, so I look forward to that. He makes everyone around him better. It's an exciting moment for the Lakers and Lakers fans."

Although the four-time All-Star realizes Los Angeles might not be done making moves, Gasol seems likely to thrive alongside Nash. Gasol attempted to take more playmaking responsibility during the Lakers' season, which ended with a second-round loss to Oklahoma City.

Metta World Peace didn't weigh in with much of an opinion on the deal on Twitter, but noted he had just been working out in Vancouver at a Steve Nash Sports Club, the point guard's chain of training complexes in British Columbia.

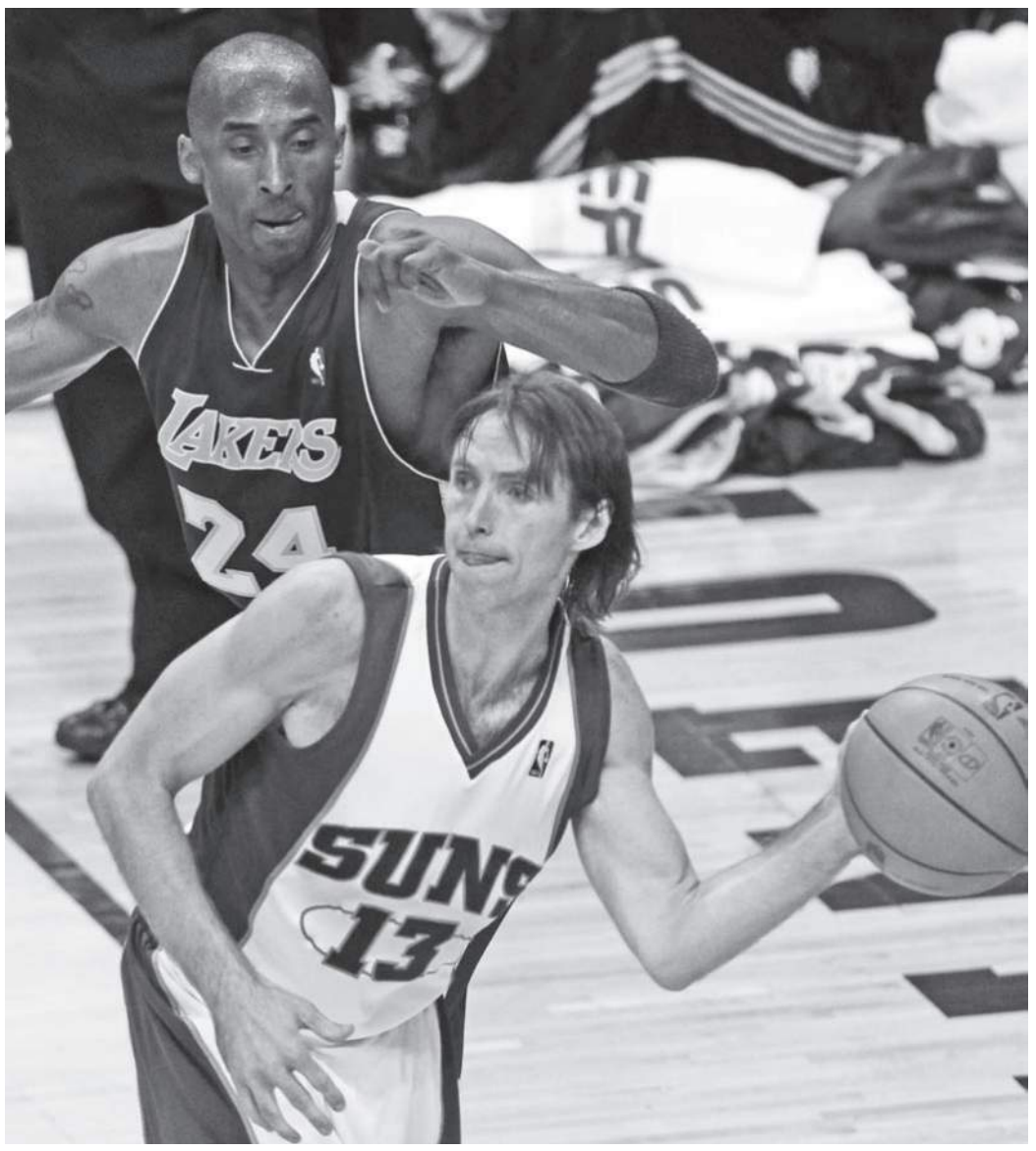
Like any basketball fan, Nash is aware of the Lakers' much-rumored interest in Orlando center Dwight Howard, but he's not looking to start a superteam with any stars who aren't already in uniform in Los Angeles.

"I can understand why the Lakers may be recruiting (Howard), but all I know is to get an opportunity to play with Pau Gasol and Andrew Bynum, it would be a pleasure," Nash told the radio station. "Frankly, that's a lot for me to think of right there."

And one of the Lakers' biggest rivalries is even more interesting, too. Nash is among the biggest reasons that the Suns have a special place of enmity in the heart of Bryant, who has often said he can't stand the Phoenix franchise.

Phoenix knocked Los Angeles out of the first round of the postseason in 2006 and again in 2007, two series that are still Bryant's only first-round playoff defeats. Kobe's Lakers got revenge two years ago, finishing off the Suns on the way to their latest title.

"Perhaps we can make each other better," Nash said. "That combination will hopefully make it a little easier for Kobe as well. A lot of work to do, and right now we can only speculate and envision."



AP

In this May 23, 2010, Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash (13) passes the ball with defender Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant during the second half of Game 3 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals in Phoenix.

NBA BRIEFS

Reports: Kidd agrees to join Knicks

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Knicks found their point guard to team with Jeremy Lin—or perhaps even replace him. Jason Kidd is leaving the Dallas Mavericks to sign with the Knicks, according to multiple reports. He could rotate in with Lin, or inherit the point guard role full time if the Knicks reverse course and decline to match an offer the Houston Rockets made to Lin, a restricted free agent whom they have said they intend to keep. Kidd's decision was a surprise in a dizzying stretch of point guard news. It was believed he would return to the Mavericks, especially after they missed out on Deron Williams. But ESPN.com reported Thursday that anonymous sources said that Kidd had decided instead to join the Knicks for a three-year deal worth about $9 million. The Knicks have been seeking veteran point guard help but lost out on Steve Nash a day earlier when Phoenix traded him to the Lakers. Deals cannot be signed until July 11.

Source: Lin agrees to offer sheet with Rockets

HOUSTON (AP)—A person with knowledge of the deal said Thursday that New York Knicks restricted free-agent guard Jeremy Lin and the Houston Rockets have agreed to terms on a four-year contract offer. The person told The Associated Press on Thursday on condition of anonymity because the team hadn't officially announced the deal. Lin can sign the offer sheet with Houston on July 11, and the Knicks will then have three days to match the offer. The Knicks have repeatedly said that they plan to keep Lin. The contract is worth $10.2 million over the first two seasons and $9.3 million in each of the last two years. The fourth season is a team option. The person also told the AP that the Rockets traded Kyle Lowry to Toronto on Thursday for a future first-round draft pick with lottery protection and forward Gary Forbes. Lowry averaged 14.3 points and 6.6 assists in 47 games for Houston last season.The Rockets had Lin in training camp, but waived him because they had already had Lowry and Goran Dragic on their roster. Now that they've traded Lowry, and with Dragic headed to Phoenix, Houston is trying to get Lin back.

Vijay shoots 63, leads Greenbrier Classic

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. (AP)—Vijay Singh and Jeff Maggert sent reminders that they're still able to compete with the younger crowd.

Singh had his best round in six months, shooting a 7-under 63 on Thursday in the Greenbrier Classic to take a one-stroke lead over Maggert, Jonathan Byrd and Martin Flores—and leave Tiger Woods eight shots behind.

"Gosh, I don't know where that came from," the 49-year-old Singh said. "I've been playing pretty good golf for a while, but just never got any scoring going. But today seemed I hit it close and drove the ball really well, hit a lot of greens and made some nice putts."

Last week at the tough layout at Congressional, only seven players posted first-round scores in the 60s.

Sixty-two players broke par Thursday on the Old White TPC course, with the greens far more forgiving than last year when they were reseeded and Scott Stallings won at 10 under.

Woods wasn't one of them. Coming off a victory Sunday in the AT&T National, he struggled with his putter in a 1-over 71 in his final tuneup for the British Open in two weeks.

Saying the greens rolled slower than those in his last three tournaments, Woods needed 31 putts on the course he played for the first time Wednesday.

"I was a little bit off with my game, and on top of that I didn't have the speed of these greens at all," said Woods, the tour leader this year with three victories. "I missed literally every single putt high today."

Singh had his best effort since an 8-under 64 in the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines in January.

Singh is playing in his ninth tournament in 10 weeks with two top-20 finishes in that span. Last week, he also got off to a fast start but shot 81 in the final round and tied for 49th.

Something clicked Thursday, when he made six birdies on the back nine, finishing with four straight.

"Hopefully it keeps going," Singh said. "I don't feel tired. I feel really energized. I've been working really hard on my game, so it's nice to see something happen."

Singh earned the last of his 34 PGA Tour wins four years ago and will be eligible to join the Champions Tour in February.

Maggert, a year younger than Singh, has had to earn his PGA Tour card through qualifying school in two of the last three years. He hasn't won since the 2006 St. Jude Classic and missed the cut in more than half his tournaments this year, including last week.

Although he feels he has a disadvantage off the tee compared with younger players on the 7,274-yard Old White, Maggert used strong iron play to make four birdies on his front nine.

Asked to describe his birdie putts, Maggert joked, "At my age, it's hard to remember - short-term memory's going."

He didn't need a big measuring stick—three of his six birdies overall were from less than 10 feet in a bogey-free round.

"I feel really comfortable here," Maggert said. "There's a lot of guys out here in their 40s, late 40s, that can really play some good golf still. So it's not surprising to see some of the old guys up on the leaderboard."

WANTED

From Page 28

Wanted Sponsor leading by only a hair, 19-18.

However, Wanted Sponsor gained full control of the playoff match in the second canto, as after a 23-22 advantage, it launched a 12-1 run to open a 12-point lead, 35-23. Cargo Express had its worst offensive showing in the second period, scoring only 8 points, allowing Wanted Sponsor to take a 39-26 halftime lead.

The deficit was then sliced to 9 at the end of the third, 50-59, with Brandon Talania and Pete Lizama teaming up for 16 of Cargo Express' 24 points.

However, Wanted Sponsor regrouped in the fourth quarter with a balance offense to pull away anew. Nine players scored for Wanted Sponsor in the fourth canto, as its much deeper bench created headaches for Cargo Express, which had only Talania and Lizama making more than one field goal in the final frame. Only three players lit up the scoreboard for Cargo Express in the fourth quarter with Dennis Morales adding 4 points off two charities and a late field goal.

Kae Bernardo top-scored for Wanted Sponsor with his 20 points, while three other also broke into double figures, and five more combined for 31 markers. Talania finished with 22, while Lizama and Morales contributed 16 and 10, respectively, and the rest of Cargo Express players combined for only 16 points.

With the win, Wanted Sponsor faces Group A top seed QQ Rent A Car in tomorrow night's quarterfinals match at 6pm. Ashley's also plays tomorrow at 8pm against Group B top-ranked Loving Hands Day Care.

Ashley's and the R-Rebels also had a slow start in their playoff match with the former ahead by only 1 point, 15-14, before taking a 31-21 lead at the break after holding the latter to 7 points in the second canto.

The R-Rebels had only three field goals in the second period, courtesy of Syl Teregeyo's two two-pointers and one basket from Fred Litulumar. Roy Norita added one charity in the R-Rebels' poor offensive showing.

Ashley's retained the lead in the second half as Jack Lizama stepped up after scoring only one field goal in the second canto. The Ashley's big man had 15 markers in the second half, making 7 in the third to keep his team in front, 49-43, and added 8 more in the fourth. He finished with a game-high 25 points.

First Game

Ashley's 68 – Lizama 25, Mendoza 11, Norita 8, Abuel 7, Usi 6, Mungcal 5, Cortez 4, Inos 2.

R-Rebel 59 – Teregeyo 12, Lisua 11, Ogumoro 10, Fitial 8, Litulimar 6, Camacho 5, Ogarto 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-14, 31-21, 49-43, 68-59.

Second Game

Wanted Sponsor 87 – Bernardo 20, Capalad 14, Basila 11, Rollon 10, Pantaleon 8, Cadag 8, Diyco 7, Yabut 5, Sablan 2.

Cargo Express 66 – Talania 22, Lizama 16, Morales 10, Berline 7, Francisco 5, Lavarias 4.

Scoring by quarters: 19-18, 39-26, 59-50, 87-66.

MDX

From Page 28

anew at the break, 57-42.

That was it for VisMinda, as it just traded baskets with Bayani in the second half and the former trimmed the deficit to a decent number after the latter let go of its guard in the final two minutes of the match.

First Game

MDX/Armatech 105 – Abuy 23, Tobias 19, Moreno 18, Berline 14, Montano 8, Poquiz 7, Gabaldon 5, Jinang 4, Canedo 4, Malasarte 3.

Laguna/Twinkle/Erika's 76 – Park 16, Ebuen 13, Pablo 10, Pangilinan 10, Lansang 6, Manipon 4, Villegas 4, Lopez 3, Salazar 2, Guerrero 2.

Second Game

Bayani/LBT Appraisal 103 – Ocampo 27, Diaz 22, Cosino 18, Pineda 17, Tiples 10, De La Torre 5, Santos 2, Sahagun 2.

VisMinda/Civic Boys 91 – Geli 32, Faustino 18, Sevilla 12, Olfindo 12, Mangubat 6, De Belen 5, Miguel 4, Santos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 32-20, 57-42, 83-58, 103-91.

CNMI

From Page 28

three times, but was called out after smashing a double to center field in the fourth inning for not touching first base. Lieto swung 2-for-2 with two doubles for an RBI, two runs, two stolen bases, and a hit-by-pitch.

Moreover, CNMI pitcher Steven Cabrera gave up three earned runs in three innings off two bunts and two hits with three walks. Reliever Austin Piteg made it cleanly through the fourth with a strikeout and a walk, while Jonathan Villagomez closed the match with the help of his infield and gave up a walk and plunked a batter before finishing the game with a strikeout.

Next up for the undefeated CNMI Senior All-Stars is the Philippines tomorrow at 2:30pm.

Saipan Tribune also would like to make a correction in the CNMI Senior All-Stars' 15-1 rout of Indonesia on Thursday. Its pitching tandem of Frankie Lieto and Davin Ada actually combined for a no-hitter. The previous write-up stated that Lieto gave up a hit, but in fact, the play went down in the official scorebook as an error at third base.

BIG LEAGUE
Philippines 3, CNMI 2 (Suspended)

The CNMI Big League All-Stars, meanwhile, went into the last inning of its Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament opener against the Philippines Thursday night all tied up at 2-2.

The Big Leaguers, however, gave up a run to the Philippines (1-0) in the top of seventh before rain caused a suspension to the game.

The CNMI had an out to go to close the inning and needs a late rally to survive.

The game will resume today before they do it all over again against the Philipines in their second pairing of the double round robin, which was originally scheduled for 5:15pm.

The CNMI played Guam (0-1) last night and details of that match will also will be released Monday. Only three teams make up the Big League field.

Meanwhile, over in Nha Trang City, Vietnam, the CNMI Junior All-Stars defeated the Philippines, 3-2, in Thursday's semifinals and advanced to the championship match against Chinese-Taipei. The game took place last night at 8pm and the result will be released Monday.

The CNMI Major All-Stars (1-2), for their part, finished its round of pool play against Indonesia (0-3) early yesterday but results were not available as of press time. The team lost to Korea, 6-0, Thursday night.

The CNMI majors are designated in Pool B, which includes Australia, Thailand, as well as the teams listed above.

Pool A fields host team Chinese-Taipei, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Guam, and New Zealand.

The team needed a win and a loss by Australia to keep its playoff hopes alive.

The semifinals takes place today with Sunday's championship and consolation matches closing the show.

The Major League Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament is being held at the Wens Shiao Field in Taichung, Taipei.

SPORTS
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Activity Schedule for Saturday, July 7, 2012
2012 Summer Futsal League
6:00 PM Women's Division Shirley's vs. Mellow Yellow
7:00 PM Men's Division Godfather's vs. Shirley's
8:00 PM Women's Division Baked Girls vs. Xerox
SAIPAN
SOCCER SCHOOL

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SPORTS
JULY - SEPTEMBER 2012 EDITION
AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:
99 Cents, Asin Fish Market, Best Seller, Blue Sky Supermarket, Capital Hill Market, Capricciosa, CHC Gift Shop, Ebisuya, EZ Mart, Garapan Market, Gold Ribbon, Grand Market, Han Nam, Happy Market (As Lito & Garapan), Himawari, I-Mart, Jin Market, Joeten (Dandan, Garapan, Kagman & Susupe), Joeten Kiyu Library, Kagman Market, Martha's Store, Mobil (Chalan Piao, Chalan Kiya, Kagman, Middle Road & Susupe), New XO Market, Payless Supermarket, Pretty Market, San Antonio Supermarket, San Jose Market, San Roque Market, Sara Market, Shell (Airport, Dandan, Gualo Rai, Highway Express, Koblerville, Puerto Rico, San Roque & Susupe), Shirley's Coffee Shop (Garapan & Susupe), Toha Supermarket, Tony Roma's, Twins Supermaket (Dandan & Puerto Rico), Wan Fu Market, and Welcome Market.
'The Crank' Camacho
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Q&A
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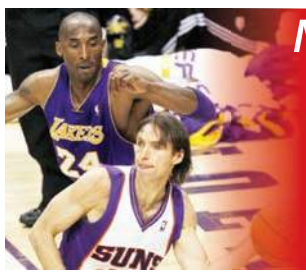

Nash elaborates on reasons he chose Lakers

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Sports

Quintana steers White Sox past Rangers, 2-1

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CNMI Seniors beat China to remain perfect

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

HAGATNA, Guam — The CNMI Senior All-Stars won its third game in as many outings after thumping China, 17-5, in Day 3 of the 2012 Senior League Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament yesterday at the Paseo Stadium in Hagatna, Guam.

While China fell to a 0-3 win-loss record, the CNMI Seniors try to continue their flawless run against the Philippines today.

China actually started the game on the right foot, taking a 3-0 lead off two hits and a pair of RBI fielder's choices in the opening frame.

The CNMI, however, fired back with nine runs in the second inning off eight hits.

Jun Rabauliman lit the wick with a leadoff double and hustled his way over to third base, while Davin and Cedric Ada, Khobby Kaipat, and Frankie Lieto all bashed RBI base rips.

A.J. Lizama also lifted a sacrifice fly and Rabauliman stole home after bashing an RBI base rip in his second at bat.

The CNMI kept China at bat in the bottom portion, but its bats cooled for the next two innings.

China managed its final two runs in the third inning off a fielder's choice and a walk followed by a bunt to the pitcher and an error at third base.

Nevertheless, the CNMI jumped back on its horse and trotted ahead, 13-5, in the top half of the fourth off three hits.

Rabauliman slapped an RBI single to left field and the other runs were assisted by errors by a developing China squad.

China's senior team appeared to be made up of younger players, but showed improvement at the plate in its third game of the competition. They only mustered a couple of runs in its first two matches and succumbed to the mercy rule all three times.

The CNMI went on to tack on its last four runs in the fifth inning off four hits, highlighted by a couple of RBI singles by T.J. Sablan and Lizama.

Frankie Camacho batted 3-for-4 with two runs and likely would have scored

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

CNMI Senior All-Stars' Frankie Camacho gets a good lead off third base in yesterday's 2012 Senior League Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament matchup against China at the Paseo Stadium in Hagatna, Guam. Inset, CNMI Senior All-Stars' Lancaster Secharmidal slides safely into home plate against China.

MDX, Bayani clinch semis seats

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion MDX/Armatech moved a win away from earning a return trip to the finals, while Bayani/LBT Appraisal also marched into the semis round of the 2012 UFO Masters Budweiser Cup after downing separates foes last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MDX/Armatech defeated Laguna/Twinkle/Erika's, 105-76, while Bayani/LBT cruised past VisMinda/Civic Boys, 103-91. MDX's semis foe on July 12 will be the winner of the knockout match between Batangas/Fong's Bakery and MAFEA/CMI (July 8), while Bayani will take on the victor of the Laguna-Civic Boys tiff.

VisMinda/Civic Boys threatened the defending champion, climbing back from a 34-50 deficit in the third period and moving within a deuce, 56-58. MDX almost lost the big lead after playing complacent at the start of the second half and was scoreless for more than four minutes after making a free throw in the opening minute of the third period. Ed Pangelinan and company capitalized on an over-confident MDX crew to close the gap with less than four minutes left in the third.

However, the backcourt trio of Ferdie Tobias, Martin Moreno, and James Abuy returned control of the game back to MDX, as they teamed up in a 13-4 windup with Abuy hitting a buzzer-beating trey to up the lead to twin digits anew at the end of the third, 71-60.

In the fourth quarter, MDX completely took over behind the 3-point shooting of Abuy and Moreno, while VisMinda gassed out after a good rally in the third canto.

Abuy finished with 23 points, while Tobias and Moreno chipped in 19 and 18, respectively.

In the second game, Bayani/LBT also withstood a Laguna rally in the second quarter en route to a 12-point win.

Bayani had a jackrabbit start, leading by 12 after the first, 32-20. It went ahead by as much as 16 in the opening canto before VisMinda picked up its scoring in the closing minutes of the first period.

VisMinda continued to recover and moved within two, 33-35, after limiting Bayani to three points in the first five minutes of the second canto, while scoring 13. Norman Olfindo anchored VisMinda's good start in the second period, making 6 points, while Ronnie De Belen added 5, and Bobby Geli chipped in 2.

Sensing trouble, Bayani went back to business in the final half of the second period with Ed Cosino capitalizing on his advantage at the paint and scoring 6 straight points, while his three other teammates also began attacking the basket to widen the gap

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bayani/LBT's Tony Diaz, right, goes up for a shot against VisMinda/Civic Boys' Jojo Sevilla during the fourth quarter of their game in the UFO Budweiser Cup last Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Wanted Sponsor's Rex Yabut pulls up for a baseline jumper against Cargo Express' Brandon Talania, right, and Bruce Berline during the second quarter of their playoff game in the Blue Haus caging last Thursday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Wanted Sponsor, Ashley's advance

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Wanted Sponsor and Ashley's completed the quarterfinal cast in the 2012 Blue Haus Invitational League after dominating separates foes last Thursday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Ashley's topped the R-Rebels in the curtain raiser, 68-59, while Wanted Sponsor prevailed in the late night match against Cargo Express, 87-66.

The second game was delayed for about 20 minutes due to rain and the long wait took its toll on both teams, as they struggled a bit on offense with

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